

# ***Number the Stars***

**Lois Lowry**

## UNIT 4

### **Preview/Context (2)**

#### *Little Red Riding Hood*

“Grandma, what big teeth you have!”  
“All the better to eat you with my dear!”

This strange piece of dialogue is from a famous children’s story *called Little Red Riding Hood*. In it, a girl is traveling through the woods to bring some food to her sick grandmother. She is stopped by a wolf who wants her food. When she refuses to give it to him, the wolf runs ahead to the grandmother’s house and pretends to be the girl’s grandmother.

In this section of the reading, Lois Lowry uses the story of *Little Red Riding Hood* to mirror what is happening to Annemarie in the chapter. It connects the theme of fairy tales and pretending (something we’ve learned is an important part of Danish childhood) to the actions that Annemarie must perform to help the Rosen’s (a symbol of her growth and maturity in a time of crisis). By connecting Annemarie’s reality to a well-known story, we are given a preview of what might happen next, a growing sense of suspense, and a little bit of control as we fear for Annemarie (we know that Little Red Riding Hood is okay in the end, and so we can hope that Annemarie will be too).

#### *End of WWII*




In late April and early May of 1945, German forces began to surrender (give over power and agree to peace) to Allies. The Allies began to take many Axis soldiers as prisoner, weakening Axis influence on battlefields and frontlines. Over 1.5 million (1,500,000) Axis soldiers were taken prisoner. At the same time, the Finnish army was able to finally force German out of Finland. This greatly weakened German influence in Scandinavia. Hitler died by committing suicide (after he realized that German would be defeated by the Allies) on April 30, 1945. This was a major turn of events, as German forces surrendered in Italy, Denmark, and the Netherlands within the following weeks. The war was over and peace would be restored throughout Europe.



In the months following the end of the war, Allied forces discovered the terrible truth of the German violence against Jews. They found what are called concentration camps, or large prisons where Jews were kept and killed in large numbers. By the end of the war, it was estimated that 6 million Jews were killed in these concentration camps by the Nazis. Another 4-5 million minorities and disabled people were also killed by the Nazis. This collection of terrible acts is

known as the Holocaust, and is remembered by the world as one of the darkest periods in modern human history.

The bravery of people like Annemarie Johansen (Annelise Platt) and her family saved thousands of Danish Jews from this terrible fate, and proved that the strength and bravery of a few can overcome the violence and domination of war.

## **Vocabulary**

Noun	Adjective	Verb
<b>Meadow:</b> a large, open area with low grass. 	<b>Damp:</b> slightly wet	<b>Dash:</b> to run quickly
<b>Herring:</b> 	<b>Vivid:</b> very clear, easy to imagine	<b>Shiver:</b> to shake because you are cold
<b>Squirrel:</b> 	<b>Seasick:</b> when you feel like you might throw up from being on a boat.	<b>Tantalize:</b> to tease someone with something that they cannot have.  “Annemarie tantalized Kirsti by talking about the cupcakes they were going to have for dinner.”

<p><b>Handkerchief:</b> a small piece of cloth typically used to wipe your nose.</p> 		
<p><b>Cast:</b> a hard material used to protect a broken bone</p> 		<p><b>Capture:</b> To take someone or something as prisoner, and not let them go.</p> <p>“Annemarie was afraid that the Germans might capture Ellen.”</p>
		<p><b>Execute:</b> to kill</p> <p>“Anyone caught by the Nazi forces would be executed within days.”</p>