

Number the Stars

Lois Lowry

UNIT 3

Preview

Christian and Jewish Religious Texts

Judaism is not the only religion in *Number the Stars*. Denmark is also home to many Christians. Unlike their friends the Rosen's (who are Jewish), the Johansen's are Christian, meaning that they read the **Bible** as their holy book. Jewish people read a book called the **Torah** as their holy book. It is interesting to know that both Jews and Christians share some of their religious texts; the Torah has five of the same stories as the **Old Testament**, or the first half of the Bible. The second half of the bible is called the **New Testament** and is very different from what is written in the Torah.

In this section of the reading, Peter will read something called a **Psalms**. The Book of Psalms is part of both the Christian Bible and the Torah. It includes 150 songs or poems on a variety of topics. Psalms are often used in religious ceremonies, such as marriages and funerals.





The Danish Resistance Movement and Protection of Jews

We've already learned a bit about the Danish Resistance movement in previous chapters in *Number the Stars*. When Danish citizens realized that German forces were planning to imprison and murder Danish Jews, just as they had done in Germany and other European countries, they decided to do whatever they could to protect the Jews. This included hiding Jews in their homes, trying to smuggle (or secretly take) Jews to countries without Nazi forces (such as Sweden), or they even sometimes kill German officials and Nazi soldiers.

Even regular citizens, those not connected to the Danish resistance, helped Jews hide or escape from Nazi forces. Their acts of bravery and selflessness changed the lives of many Danish Jews who would have likely been taken prisoner by the Germans and potentially killed. It was the bravery of so many citizens, like Annemarie and her parents, who helped to save thousands of Jews in Denmark.

Vocabulary

Noun	Adjective	Verb
Hearse: a car that carries a dead body to a funeral	Staccato: usually relating to music, short and sharp sounds completely distinct from each other.	Startle: to scare someone suddenly

		<p>"The knock on the door startled Annemarie."</p>
<p>Barn</p> 	<p>Condescending: Being rude to someone by believing you are better than them.</p> <p>"The behavior of the German soldiers was often condescending."</p>	<p>Dismay: to cause someone to feel stressed or concerned</p> <p>"Staying in the house alone dismayed Annemarie."</p>
<p>Casket: the box that holds the body of a dead person.</p> 	<p>Cruel: to be very mean to someone.</p> <p>"The German soldiers are often unnecessarily cruel to the Danish people."</p>	<p>Rummage: to search quickly and without a system through something</p> <p>"Annemarie rummaged through Lise's trunk, looking for her wedding dress."</p>
<p>Helmet: a hard covering you wear on your head to protect it.</p> 		<p>Stumble: to trip and fall over something</p> <p>"Annemarie stumbled in the kitchen and almost knocked a plate off the table."</p>

Pride: a very good feeling you have about yourself because of something you have or something you've done.

"Annemarie knows that Ellen's family still has **pride** in themselves, even if the Germans dislike them."