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Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

Introduction:

In Lois Lowry's gripping novel, *Number the Stars*, ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen lives a carefree life in Copenhagen, Denmark during World War II. However, her world is shattered when the Nazis invade and begin rounding up Jews. Annemarie, whose best friend is Jewish, is thrust into a dangerous situation where she must make a life-altering choice.

Plot Summary:

As the threat of Nazi persecution intensifies, Annemarie's family decides to help their Jewish friends, the Rosens, escape to Sweden. Annemarie's brave and resourceful uncle Henrik devises a daring plan to smuggle the Rosens across the sea. Annemarie plays a crucial role in the operation, memorizing escape routes, delivering messages, and facing her fears. The story follows Annemarie's perilous journey as she confronts danger and grapples with the complexities of war and prejudice.

Characters:



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- **Annemarie Johansen:** The ten-year-old protagonist, a brave and resourceful girl who is fiercely loyal to her friends and family.
- **Ellen Rosen:** Annemarie's best friend, a kind and intelligent Jewish girl who faces persecution due to her heritage.
- **Henrik Johansen:** Annemarie's courageous uncle, a key figure in the resistance movement who helps smuggle Jews to safety.

Analysis:

Number the Stars explores themes of courage, friendship, and the importance of standing up for what's right in the face of adversity. Lowry's vivid descriptions transport readers to war-torn Copenhagen and capture the anxieties and resilience of ordinary people caught in extraordinary circumstances. The novel also highlights the power of friendship and the enduring bonds that transcend religious and cultural differences.

Conclusion:

Number the Stars is a powerful and moving story that celebrates the courage of everyday heroes. Annemarie's journey reminds us of the importance of standing up for what's right, even in the face of immense danger. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in historical fiction or stories about the power of friendship and courage.

