



Number the Stars
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For my discovery project, I chose the book *Number the Stars*. I chose this book because I have always been interested in the Holocaust. For my project I did art. My project has a boat surrounded by various objects. Each object is an important piece of the book.

In this story a young girl named Annemarie and her family try to help their Jewish neighbors by letting their daughter, Ellen, stay with them as their own child. Annemarie tests her bravery and courage to save her best friend.

In the upper left-hand corner, I have put the Star of David necklace. I have put this here because all of the Jewish had to wear the Star of David. In this book, Ellen's dad gave her this necklace when she was a little girl. Ever since she got the necklace, she never had taken it off. "Ellen," she whispered urgently, " take your necklace off!" Ellen's hands flew to her neck. Desperately she began to unhook the tiny clasp. Outside the bedroom door, the harsh voices and heavy footsteps continued. "I can't get it open!" Ellen said frantically. "I never take it off-I can't even remember how to open it!" (Lowry 45). This is the part of the book when Nazi officers come to Annemarie's home looking to see if they know about Ellen's family, who is now on the run.

My next symbol is the Nazi badge. For the badge I put a falcon. The reason I have a Nazi badge is because Annemarie and Ellen run into Nazi officers 4 times throughout the story. 'Cautiously, she took a step forward. And another. She approached the turn in the path, and the noises continued. Then they were there, in front of her. Four armed soldiers. With them, straining at taut leashes, were two large dogs, their eyes glittering, their lips curled' (Lowry 122). In this paragraph Annemarie is sent into the forest to give her uncle a package and his lunch when she runs into Nazi officers. The Nazis search the lunch and open the package only to find a hand-made handkerchief.

The next thing on my project is the forest. Many things happen in the forest like Annemarie's mom broke her ankle, Annemarie runs into Nazis, and Annemarie's uncle sneaks people under the boards of his boat after smuggling them though he forest. To me the most important thing is the mom breaking her ankle because Annemarie has to deliver her uncle's lunch to him herself. 'Mama sighed. "So clumsy," she said, as if scolding herself. "I'm afraid my ankle is broken, Annemarie. Thank goodness it is nothing worse. An ankle mends. And I am home, and the Rosens are with

Henrik" (Lowry 102). At this part Annemarie helps her mother into the house after finding out what had happened in the forest and seeing that her mom had a broken ankle.

The handkerchief is next on my project. The handkerchief protected the families that were hiding in the boat. The handkerchief had a drug on it getting rid of the dogs sent temporarily. The handkerchief made it so the dogs couldn't sniff out the hiding people. 'He looked inside, then glared at Annemarie. "Stop crying, you idiot girl," he said harshly. "Your stupid mother has sent your uncle a handkerchief. In Germany the woman have better things to do. They don't stay at home hemming handkerchiefs for their men"' (Lowry 117). Annemarie was just trying to get her uncle lunch to him on time, but when she was stopped, the Nazis looked through her uncles lunch and found the carefully wrapped handkerchief.

Next comes the coffin. The coffin was thought to be holding Great-Aunt Birte, but instead of a body in the coffin there were coats and blankets. 'First he closed the windows. Then he went to the casket and opened the lid. Annemarie blinked. Across the room, she saw Ellen, too, peering into the narrow wooden box in surprise. There was no one in the casket at all. Instead, it seemed to be stuffed with folded blankets and articles of clothing' (Lowry 87-88). This is the section after the Nazi soldiers come to ask why so many people are gathered around. After finding out about the death, they ask why the coffin isn't open. Quickly Annemarie's mother says that their great-aunt had typhus, the soldiers told them then to open it after they leave.

Blossom, the cow does have an impact on the story. Blossom is there when Annemarie finds out about Great-Aunt Birte. In this quote it says; "'How brave are you, little Annemarie?" He asked suddenly. She was startled. And dismayed. It was a question she

did not want to be asked. When she asked it of herself, she didn't like her own answers. "Not very." She confessed, looking at the floor of the barn. Tall Uncle Henrik knelt before her so that his face was level with hers. Behind him, Blossom lowered her head, grasped a mouthful of hay in her mouth, and drew it in with her tongue. The kitten cocked its head, waiting, still hoping for spilled milk. "I think that is not true," Uncle Henrik said. "I think you are like your momma, and your papa, and like me. Frightened, but determined, and if times came to be brave, I am quite sure you would be very, very brave"(Lowry 75-76). This is the part when Annemarie finds out that the death was fake and that this was just a plan to help people.

Last but not least the in the middle the boat sits. The boat is the most important part of the book to me. That is why the boat is front and center. The boat part of the book is when the families that came to Great-aunt Birte funeral hide under the boards of the boat. The captain of the boat takes them over to Sweden. Uncle Henrik says "'Dark, and cold, and very cramped. And Mrs.Rosen was seasick, even though we were not on the water very long- it is a short distance, as you know. But they are courageous people. And none of that mattered when they stepped ashore. The air was fresh and cool in Sweden; the wind was blowing. The baby was beginning to wake as I said goodbye to them'" (Lowry 127). This is when Uncle Henrik tells Annemarie what happened during the boat ride. The book doesn't tell you, until this part.

I chose the book Number the Stars. In the end everyone is safe in Sweden and the war had ended. Because of Annemarie, her best friend and a few others were safe from Nazi soldiers. That was why I put what I put on my art project.