

Number the Stars – Chapter 1 Lesson Plan

Materials Needed:

- Map of Europe (1940-1945) - include a handout for each student to label
- KWL chart
- *Compare and Contrast* graphic organizer
- Chapter 1 Quiz worksheet
- Reader's Notebook (composition book for each student)

Activate Prior Knowledge

Using a KWL chart:

- Discuss what the students know about World War II.
- Adolf Hitler
- “Superior Race” - persecution of Jews (and others)
- Nazi Party in Germany
- Resistance groups fought back

Before Reading

- Using a map of Europe, have students locate and label Denmark, Norway, France, Sweden, the Baltic Sea, and the North Sea. Locate, label, and place a star at the capital of Denmark: Copenhagen. In 1940, where were the Nazi occupations happening?

Key Vocabulary

- Write **occupation** and **resistance** side by side on the chalkboard, overhead, or chart paper. Students may know the common use of the word occupation; tell them the word has a different meaning in *Number the Stars*. Guide students in identifying the roots occupy and resist. Using the roots and a dictionary if necessary, have students establish the military definitions of occupation and resistance. Then scatter these words on the board: **surrender, sabotage, persecution, swastika, relocation, rationing, and curfew.**
- Students work in small groups to define these words and relate them to occupation and resistance. Discuss with the class.
- For Deaf students using ASL – discuss the difference between words that have the same signs but different meanings: Denmark/Danish/Dane; Nazi/ Hitler
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Build Comprehension

Key Ideas and Details

**Encourage students to support their answers from the text*

- How would you feel if a soldier stopped you for running in the street?
- Describe the relationship between Mrs. Rosen and Mrs. Johansen.
- How had the family changed in the three years since the German occupation?
- How do the Danes in general feel about the German presence?
- How have some Danes reacted to the occupation?
- What are the objectives of the Danish Resistance Group?
- What is the purpose of the newspaper, "The Free Danes" - "De Frie Danske" ?

Identify Character Traits

- Students select two characters from the story. Use descriptive language and tell about the characters, using a form of compare and contrast graphic organizer such as the T-chart. Suggestion: Annemarie and Kirsti

Critical Thinking Questions

- Do you agree with how Annemarie handled the situation with the soldiers? Be sure to support your answers with text evidence.
- Was the decision of the Danes to surrender to Germany a good one? Decision? Would you want our country to surrender? *Have students write a brief speech urging their fellow citizens to resist the Germans or one accepting the occupation peacefully.*
- Have students discuss how they might have reacted to life in Nazi-occupied Europe. What surprised, frightened, or angered them?

Ideas for Enrichment Activities

- Research about the German Occupation of Copenhagen in 1940. How did the people of Denmark respond? Why didn't the Danish Jews wear the Star of David on their clothing like the Jews in other countries?
- Research King Christian X and his role as a leader of Denmark during this troubled time.

Topics for Reading Responses and/or Journal Writing:

- After each day's reading, students should write at least two new things they remember from the text.
- Have students write about an incident—from their own experience or from their reading—in which someone took a stand against injustice (unfairness). Tell them to describe what happened and explain how the incident made them feel. Invite students to share their responses. As students read *Number the Stars*, encourage them to make connections between their experiences and events in the novel.
- Draw a picture of the setting described in the text.