

Number the Stars
Chapter 4

Materials needed:

- Books about the use of quilts as means of a way to communicate when it was safe for the slaves to escape (Suggestions: *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt* by Deborah Hopkinson; *The Patchwork Path: A Quilt Map to Freedom* by Bettye Stroud; *Under the Quilt of Night* by Deborah Hopkinson (and for advanced readers: *Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad* by Jacqueline L. Tobin) (be sure to explain the purpose of listening to the story (comparing how the slaves used quilts in plain view the way the friends of the Jews hid the children in plain view) and ways of making text to text connections.

Before Reading/ Activate Prior Knowledge

(Show various pictures throughout the class discussion)

- What is Rosh Hashanah? Compare and contrast celebrations and the seasons surrounding the Jewish New Year and the New Year on January
- What is a shofar?
- What do fish skin shoes look like? Why did some people wear fish shoes instead of leather shoes during this time period?
- What is the Tivoli Gardens?
- Rabbi/ synagogue
- Paper dolls in the 1940's
- What are quilts (for the text to text connection activity and future readings about codes)

Key Vocabulary

Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 1
[shook his head]	chattered stunned terrified announced	belligerently dubiously

Build Comprehension (Class Discussion Guide)

Key Ideas and Details

- Why did Mrs. Johansen tell Kristi that the bombing of the navy ships were fireworks?
- Why did the Danes destroy their own naval fleet?
- Where did the Nazi's get the list of Jewish names? What do they plan to do with the list of names?

- Why was Kirsti so upset? How did Ellen help Kirsti with her problem?
- Why did Ellen stay the night with the Johansen family and pretended she was Lise, Annemarie's sister? Where were her parents?
- What did Papa mean when he said "it will be a long night."

Point of View and Suspense

- We learn the events of the book through Annemarie's point of view. How does Annemarie's incomplete understanding of events help create *suspense*?
- What are some examples of suspense in the book so far?
- What point of view is being used in the book? (1st person vs. 3rd person) Why do you think the author chose to use this kind of point of view? Would the book change if the author chose another kind? Discuss.
- "Don't be frightened," he said to them softly, "Once I had three daughters. Tonight I am proud to have three daughters again." What did Papa mean?
- If the Nazi soldiers arrived at the apartment, what will the family do to protect Ellen? What was the "game plan?"

Critical Thinking Questions

- Can you understand Kirsti's reaction when she was forced to wear fish shoes? Have you ever reacted in a similar way to something you have been made to wear? Were you able to change anyone's mind about it?
- Would you ever be willing to risk your life for another person? Under what circumstances might you take this risk?
- What text evidences from this chapter and previous chapters show the friendship between the two families?
- Annemarie, even though we learn many events through her, does not know everything that is happening. For example, what words did the two families exchange about Ellen when they decided to let Ellen stay with the Johansen family for a few nights? Use your imagination, within reasons of the text, to decide what the conversation might look like. Role-play this conversation with a partner.
- Think about the dinner conversation in which Annemarie learns about Ellen's family's situation. Role-play this scene and discuss how Annemarie must have felt. What questions may have been in her mind?

Topics for Reading Responses and/or Journal Writing

- Cause and effect: Choose five events from the book (chapters 1-4) and write the things that caused the events to happen. Use a graphic organizer to plan your writing.

- Describe how you played as a child. What were your favorite pastimes and toys? Use lots of descriptions in your writing.
- Kirsti was upset about her new fish shoes. Think of a time you received something you did not like and was forced to wear it. If this never happened to you, imagine one clothing item you would hate to get and be forced to wear. Explain. Be sure to use lots of descriptive details so your readers understand.
- Papa is hiding Ellen “in plain sight.” Think of a situation in which something was hidden in plain sight. Was this a good idea? Why or why not? Write a paragraph about it.
- What do you think will happen to next? Make a prediction and explain why you think this will happen.

How do the Johansen family show respect for the Rosen family’s religious beliefs?