

Ellen Friesen
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Dear Ms. Lowry,

Before I read Number the Stars, I didn't think much about how living under Nazi occupation changed the Danes' lives. When I did, my thoughts had no feeling. I never thought about how much fear and tension there was. As I read Number the Stars I felt the fear that Annemarie felt. When Annemarie met the German soldiers on the path to the pier, I wondered what would happen. When one of the soldiers reached into Annemarie's basket, I held my breath, and hoped he wouldn't discover the secret handkerchief. I realized I have never had to live with such tension. I realized there are people in our world right now living with that kind of tension and fear. I decided after reading the book I could help these people by standing up for what I believe is right and provide hope and cheer.

Reading Number the Stars made me realize the fear during World War II, but it also made me realize there were happy moments, too. Annemarie and Ellen played paper dolls, and put cream on their oatmeal. They laughed when Uncle Henrik's cat did silly things. They gathered wildflowers, and talked with each other. I realized that if something happens that is sad or traumatic, I should try to give happiness to the people involved.

I didn't know much about World War II before I read Number the Stars. I thought that the only people who got killed were the Jews and soldiers. Peter and Lise proved me wrong. I also thought that all the Jews escaped by themselves, and were the only ones that had to be brave. Number the Stars made me realize that even non-Jewish people were brave. Annemarie risked her life to take the special handkerchief to Uncle Henrik. Inge led some Jews from their hiding place to Henrik's boat. By the separate actions of Peter, Lise, Annemarie, Inge, and Henrik I learned that I could stand up for what I believe is right.

Number the Stars taught me that when times are full of tension and fear I can stand up for what I believe is right and help others.

Yours truly,

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