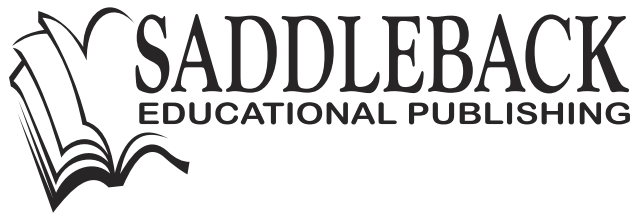


Focus **ON READING**

*Number
the Stars*

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Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

lanky—tall, thin, and slightly awkward

residential—relating to an area where people live

contempt—extreme lack of respect

defiantly—in a bold and challenging manner

obstinate—very stubborn

incident—something that happens; an occurrence

reassured—made someone feel confident again

sabotage—action taken to destroy property and make war more difficult for the enemy

dawdled—moved slowly; wasted time

rationed—handed out in small, equal amounts

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

The **Nazi occupation** of Denmark began on April 9, 1940, with a German invasion. One hour later, Germany invaded Norway as well. The king of Denmark surrendered immediately, knowing that his country did not stand a chance against the Nazi war machine.

The **Danish Resistance** movement began as soon as the Nazi occupation began. Over the course of the war, approximately 3,000 Resistance fighters—both men and women—were killed.

The **kroner** is the primary unit of Danish money. (Today one U.S. dollar equals just under six kroner.)

The **swastika**, an ancient symbol that often represented good luck, has been found in the art of many civilizations around the world. Hitler adapted (and corrupted) the swastika design in the early 1920s as a symbol of his National Socialist Party, or the Nazis. He reportedly chose the design because of its links to the ancient Aryans, a “pure” race of people from Iran and northern India.

A **trousseau** is a collection of special clothes and household linens a bride brings to her new marriage.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. In what ways are Annemarie and Ellen similar? In what ways are they different?
2. How do the descriptions of the German soldiers differ from descriptions of other characters in the novel?
3. How is the German occupation affecting life in Annemarie's neighborhood, city, and country as a whole?
4. What kind of relationship do the Johansens and the Rosens have? What importance do you think this will have as the story progresses?
5. What does Peter do? What role does he play in Annemarie's family?