

Number The Stars

Number The Stars, by Lois Lowry, tells the story of Annemarie Johansen, a brave and courageous young girl, surrounded by the fear and threat of the Nazi regime. As the story unfolds young Annemarie learns of human suffering through the eyes of her best friend, Ellen Rosen. Later Annemarie also learns of the Danish Resistance, which is a group of people secretly fighting against the looming threat of genocide. The theme of human decency plays a significant role in this historical fiction novel. Many characters exhibit traits which display human decency, but none more than Annemarie. Through her courageous actions in helping her best friend, Ellen, escape so she would not be sent to a relocation camp, we witness human decency at its best. Annemarie was driven to act as she did because she knew that if she were in Ellen's shoes, Ellen would do the same for her.

Human decency, what is it really? Is it merely helping a senior citizen cross the street, or in this case, helping a friend escape from a life or death situation? Perhaps it is both, but to various degrees. Lois Lowry's novel, Number The Stars, tells the story of young Annemarie Johansen, an innocent girl before the war. As the war progressed and grew, so did she, both in her awareness and sense of responsibility, Annemarie's bravery is shown when

she decides to accept the tasks that are put before her, without consideration for her own welfare.

One of the many definitions of human decency is to give another person the same amount of respect and dignity that you yourself would want. This ties into the story when the main character, Annemarie Johansen, helps her best friend, Ellen Rosen, escape from being sent to a relocation camp. Annemarie does so because she considers Ellen not only as a friend, but as a sister, and therefore helps her as one. Although she knew she faced many dangers, Annemarie's sense of courage and human decency allows her to overcome her fears and protect Ellen.

Annemarie learned about human decency and pride mostly from her family. Lois Lowry not only shows that Annemarie's compassion comes from within her, but from those very close to her, too. Annemarie's family helped many Jewish families escape to Sweden.

Lois Lowry's story, Number The Stars, is a historical fiction novel that is set in Copenhagen, Denmark, during the Nazi occupation. Annemarie Johansen's family was one of many families helping Jewish people escape to Sweden. Some people may feel, how does human decency affect me personally? Well, I think that it applies to everyone in general. I think that it applies to everyone because in the end, it will be human decency that prevails through these days of war and terrorism. That is what makes Number the Stars not only a superb historical fiction novel, but one that still resonates today.