

# NUMBER THE STARS

*written by  
Lois Lowry*



a book study  
created by  
The Curriculum Corner

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

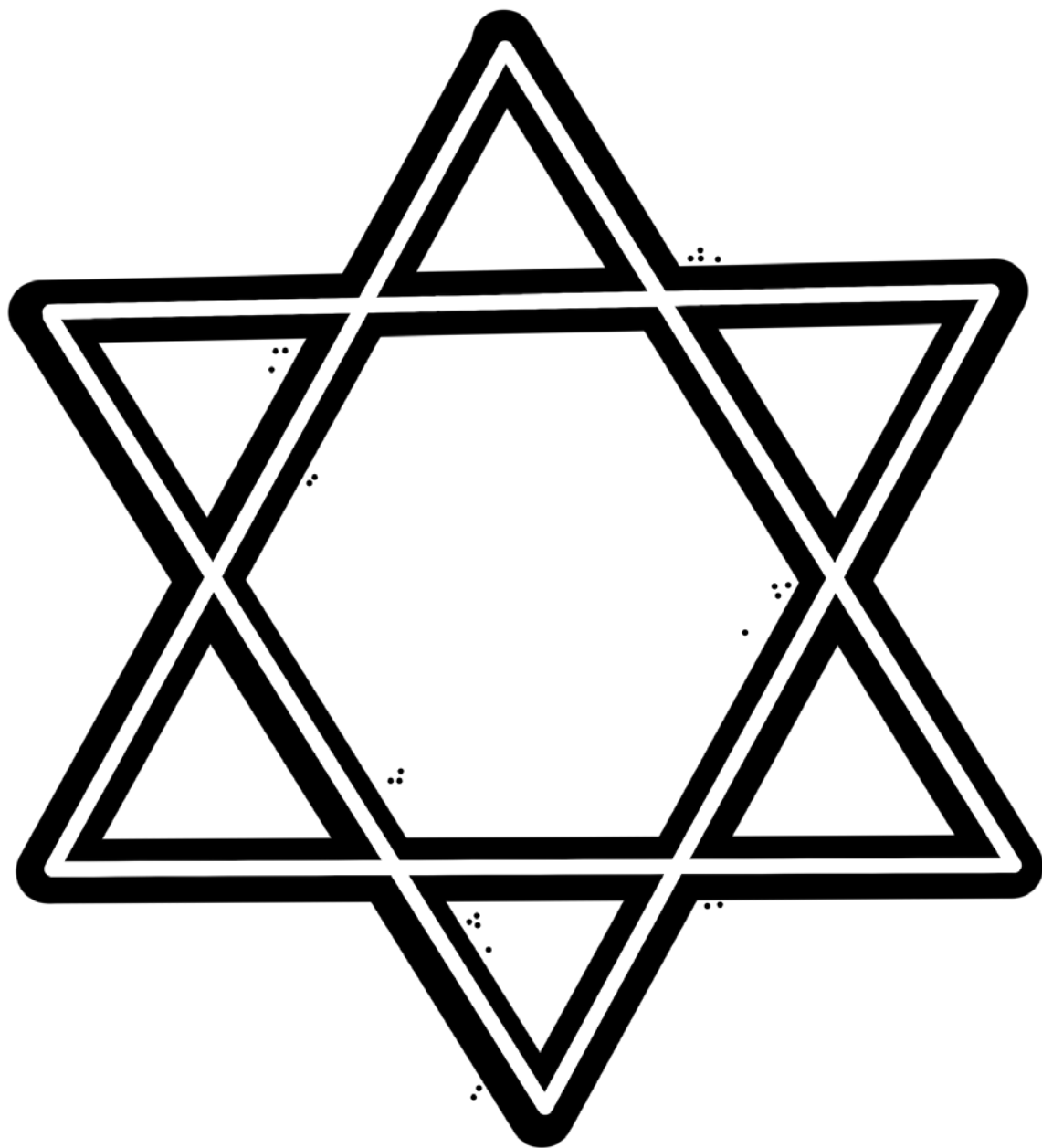
## Book Preview

Do a book walk before you begin reading. Pay attention to the front and back covers. What genre would you classify this book as? Share three noticings that support your belief.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Activating Background Knowledge

Before you read, it will be helpful to understand what is happening during this time period. Fill this page with facts you learn about World War II, Denmark during this time period and how the Jewish people were being treated.

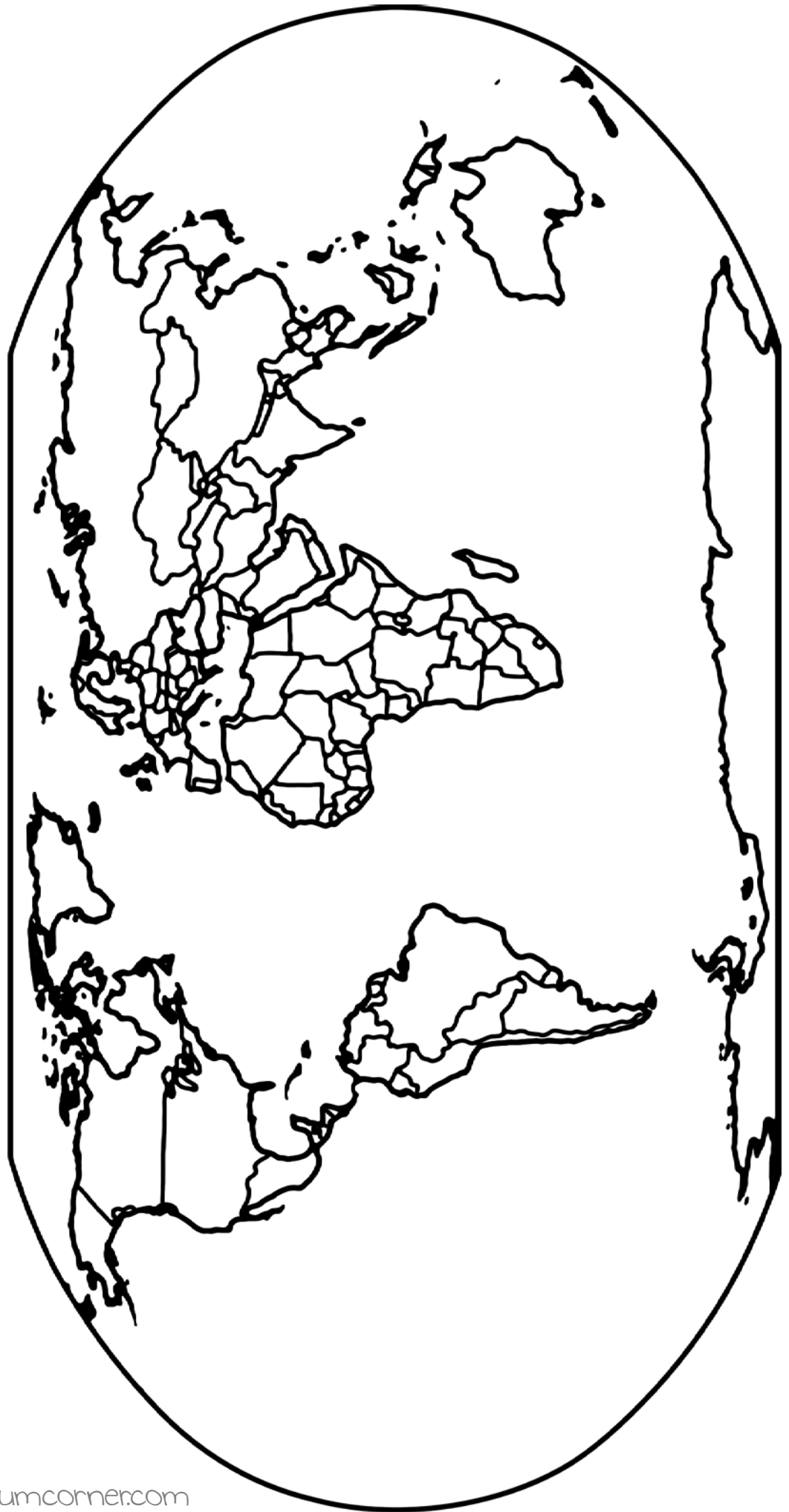


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark the following places on the map:

- Where you live
- Denmark
- Germany

# Map It



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Visualizing the Time Period

Words the author uses to tell about the setting.	What is happening in the world during this time.

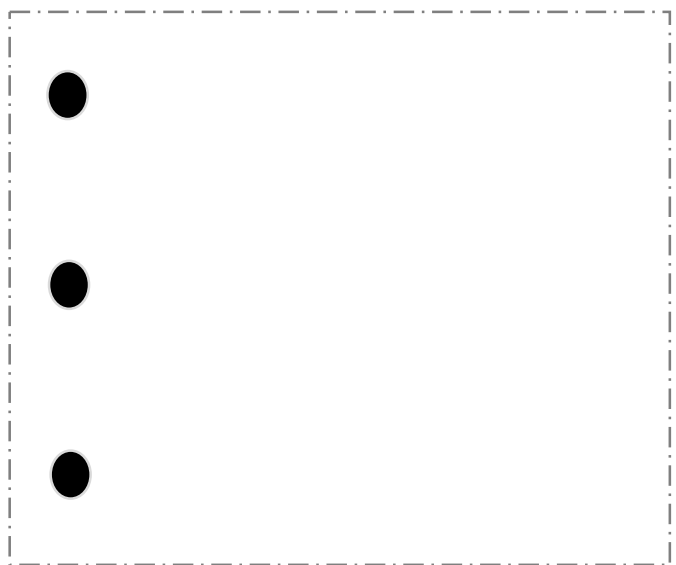
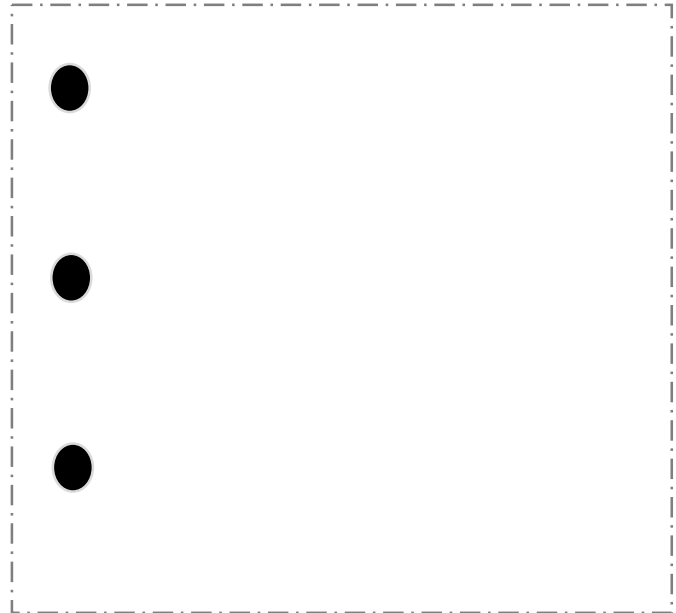
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Characters

Show two of the  
characters



Share details from the reading  
about each character





How have the lives of the citizens of Denmark changed since the Nazis have invaded their country?

1

Once you have read about King Christian X, how do you feel about him? Do you believe that Lois Lowry shares how the people of Denmark really feel about their king?

2

Do you think the people of Denmark did the right thing by not fighting the Nazis? How might things have been different for them if they had chosen to fight?

2

What do you learn about Lise? Why do you think Mama and Papa don't talk about her?

2

What do we learn about the people of Denmark by how they treat the Jewish people in their country?

3

Why do you think Mama told Kirsti that the explosions on her birthday were fireworks for her?

4

Do you think the people of Denmark did the right thing by not fighting the Nazis? How might things have been different for them if they had chosen to fight?

4

What else do you learn about Lise? What have you added to your thinking about why Mama and Papa don't talk about her?

4



Papa and Mama put their own family in danger to protect others. Why do you think they do this?

5

What predictions can you make about the trip to Uncle Henrik's house?

6

Why do you think Mama doesn't want the girls talking to anyone while they are at Uncle Henrik's?

7

What clues tell you something important is about to happen even though the reader does not understand what yet?

8

Uncle Henrick and Annemarie talk about bravery. What examples of bravery have you seen in this book?

9

There is a lot of tension in this chapter. Explain the tense moments the characters experience.

10

Annemarie thinks about pride and we learn that her understanding of this word has changed. Explain how and why.

11

Why are some reasons Annemarie might be crying when she goes back inside the house?

12



Annemarie takes a big risk by taking the packet to Uncle Henrick. What do you learn about her character from her actions?

13

The author helps the reader build a picture of the setting as Annemarie runs through the woods. What specific words and phrases help you picture what Annemarie sees as she runs?

14

How do the actions and words of the soldiers make you feel as you read chapter 15?

15

Annemarie worries about the "ifs" of her mission. Why do these scare her?

16

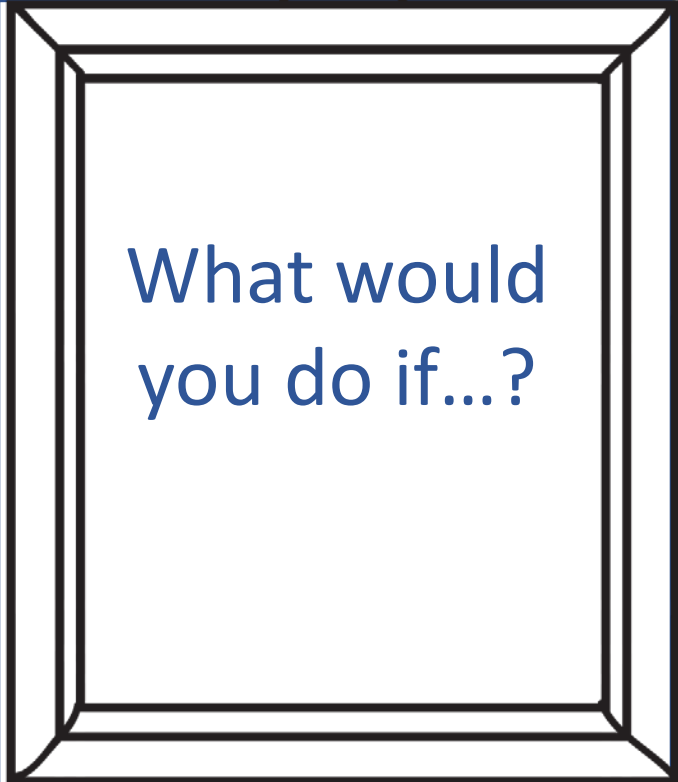
The people of Denmark worked hard to protect the Jewish people in their country. What character traits would you use to describe them?

17

What lesson does Lois Lowry want countries around the world to take from this story?

afterword






What would  
you do if...?



What would  
happen if...?



What  
character trait  
describes  
\_\_\_\_\_?




How would  
you feel if...?





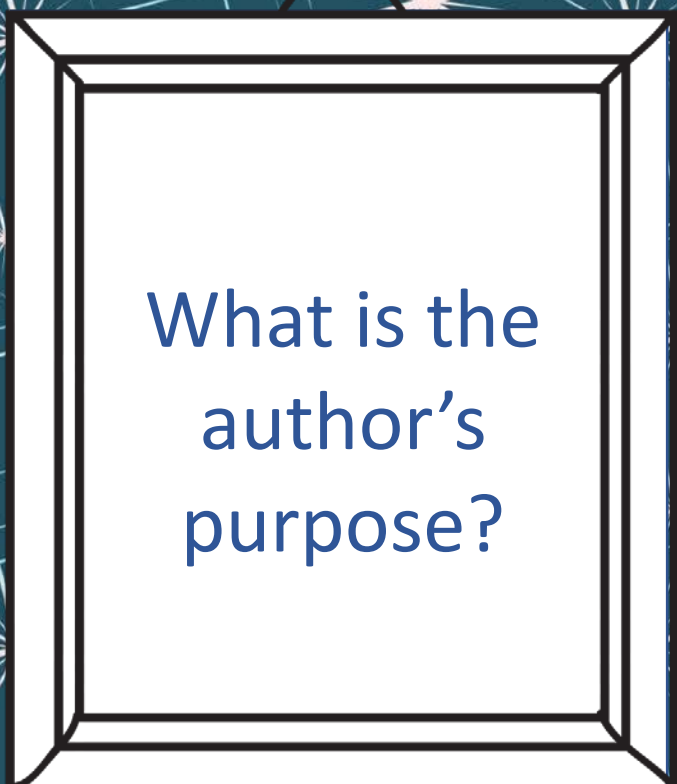
Explain...



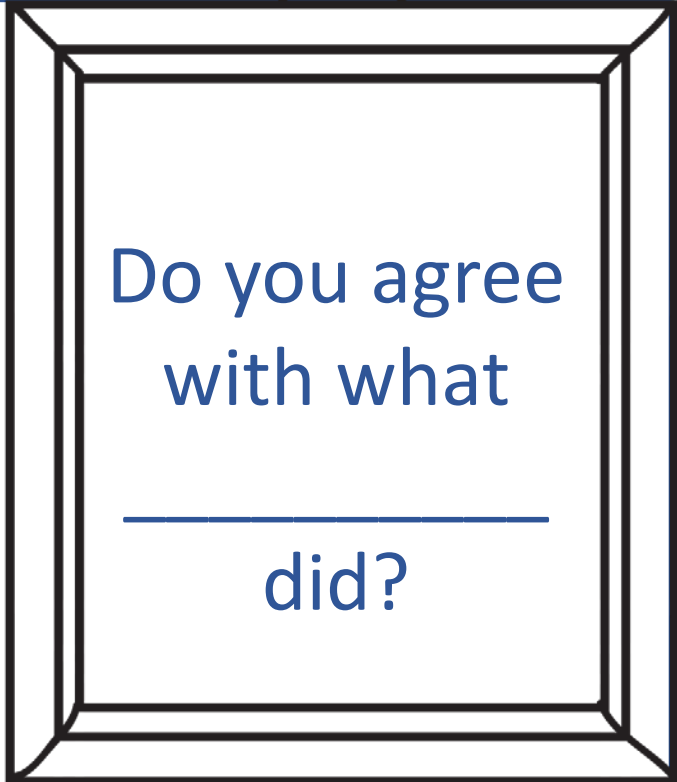
What do you  
predict...?



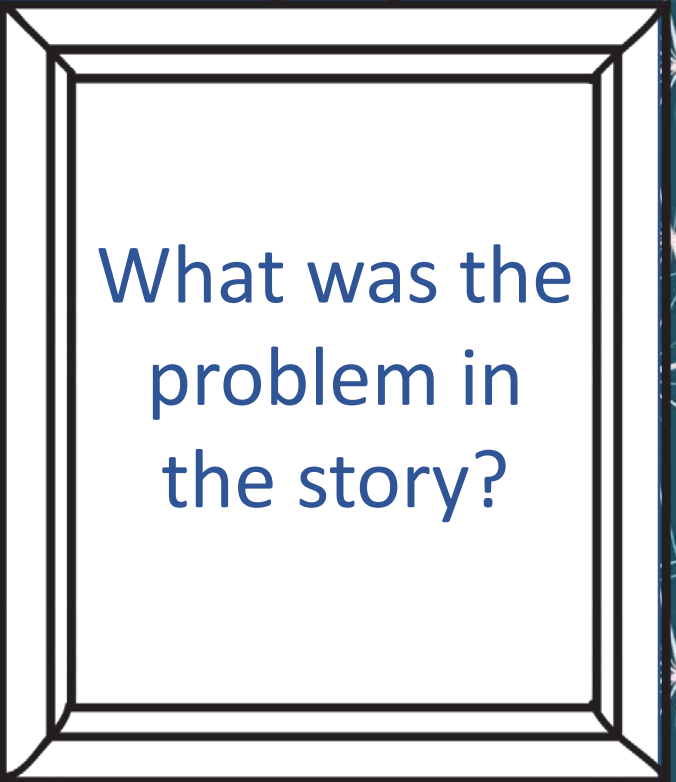
Why did the  
author...?



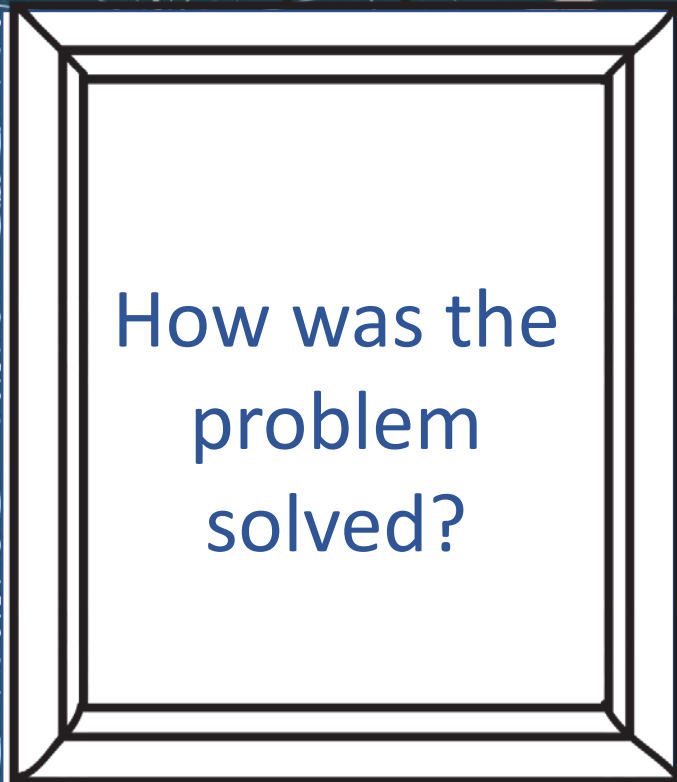
What is the  
author's  
purpose?



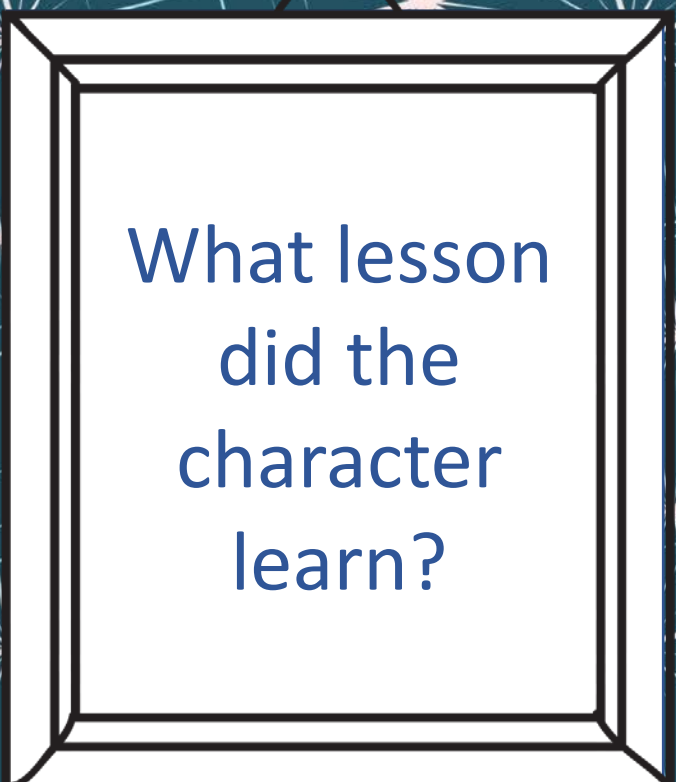
Do you agree  
with what  
\_\_\_\_\_  
did?



What was the  
problem in  
the story?



How was the  
problem  
solved?



What lesson  
did the  
character  
learn?

# Chapter 1: Why Are You Running?

## Chapter summary:

Annemarie and Ellen are two young girls living in Copenhagen during World War II. Their town is occupied by Nazi soldiers. The girls (along with Annemarie's little sister) are stopped by two soldiers as they are racing home from school. They are scared when confronted by the soldiers. They are told to walk, not run. The girls return home to their apartment building where their moms are concerned. We learn that the Resistance is trying to undermine the Nazis.

## Key vocabulary words:

civilized, stocky, lanky, pleaded, rucksack, residential, outdistanced, hoodlums, occupation, anxiously, incident, humorous, absorbed (preoccupied), sabotage

## Discussion Questions

- Where is Copenhagen?
- Tell about the setting
- How do you feel as the girls are talking with the soldiers?
- What do you learn about why the soldiers are there?
- What do you think about the Resistance fighters?
- What do you learn about how the lives of the citizens have changed since the Nazis have been in their town?
- When does Mama feel that their lives will return to normal?

## Notes to remember:

# Chapter 2: Who Is the Man Who Rides Past

## Chapter summary:

Annemarie and Kirsti are lying in the bed they share as Annemarie tells a bedtime story about a king and queen. The man who rides past is the king of Denmark, Christian X. The people of Denmark respect him. When the Nazis came, he did not fight. Papa says this was wise. We learn that the girls had an older sister, Lise, who died in an accident two years ago before her wedding. Her fiancé, Peter, still visits but Annemarie notes that he and her Papa are different in recent years.

## Key vocabulary words:

solemn, considered, citizen, trousseau, fiercely

## Discussion Questions

- What do you know about Hans Christian Andersen?
- How do the people of Denmark feel about their king?
- Why did the king of Denmark decide not to fight the Nazis? What happened in countries where the country did fight?
- What do we learn about Annemarie's older sister, Lise?
- Why do you think Peter and Papa might have changed in recent years?

## Notes to remember:



# Chapter 3: Where is Mrs. Hirsch?

## Chapter summary:

Annemarie is asked to go to Mrs. Hirsch's shop after school to buy a new button for her sister's jacket. When they arrive, the store is closed and there is a sign in German. Mama worries about what has happened to her. Late at night, Peter visits and we learn that the Nazis have closed stores owned by the Jewish people in Denmark. The family says that the citizens of Denmark will work to be bodyguards for the Jewish people in their country.

## Key vocabulary words:

rationed, cupboard, Jewish, tormenting, ordinary

## Discussion Questions

- How is the family preparing for the colder weather?
- Why do the girls need to go Mrs. Hirsch's shop? What do they find when they get there?
- What things do we learn that the family no longer has that were a part of their lives last year?
- Why was Mrs. Hirsch's shop closed? How will they survive without the income?
- What does the family say Denmark will be for all of the Jews in their country?

## Notes to remember:



# Chapter 4: It Will Be a Long Night

## Chapter summary:

Annemarie and Ellen are playing paper dolls they have created using Mama's old magazines. When Mama and Kirsti return, Kirsti is upset that her new shoes are green and made of fish skin. Ellen offers to have her Papa use black ink to color them and make them shiny. It is the Jewish New Year when the Rosens learn that the Nazis are gathering all Jews in Denmark for relocation. Peter helps take Ellen's parents somewhere safe and Ellen comes to hide among Annemarie's family as her sister.

## Key vocabulary words:

exasperated, bellowed, disdainfully, designated, occupation, belligerently, tension, synagogue, congregation, relocation,

## Discussion Questions

- Why does Annemarie like playing imagination games with Ellen?
- What has made Kirsti so upset? How does Ellen suggest they solve the problem?
- How are the shoes a sign that the citizens are not living how they are used to?
- Kirsti was told that the explosions she heard when she turned 5 were fireworks for her birthday. What really happened?
- Why did Papa say the king should feel proud after he destroys his ships?
- Why is Annemarie surprised that Ellen will be staying with them?
- What do we learn about what the Nazis are doing to the Jews?

## Notes to remember:

# Chapter 5: Who Is the Dark-Haired One?

## Chapter summary:

Annemarie and Ellen were anxious about what could happen. The girls were talking about Lise's death as they got ready for bed. They talked in bed until they fell asleep. In the middle of the night they were awoken with loud pounding on the door. Soldiers entered their apartment and were searching for the Rosen family. The soldiers questioned Ellen's dark hair but Papa tore a picture out of an album from Lise when she was a baby with dark curly hair and convinced the soldiers it was Ellen.

## Key vocabulary words:

abruptly, stalk, portrait, unwavering

## Discussion Questions

- How are the girls acting like sisters?
- What do we learn about what happened to Lise?
- Why does Ellen wear a necklace with a Star of David?
- How does Papa convince the soldiers that Ellen is his daughter?

## Notes to remember:

# Chapter 6: Is the Weather Good for Fishing?

## Chapter summary:

Papa and Mama decide that Ellen cannot return to school. They are worried the Nazis will look for Jewish children at school and take her. They decide to send the children to Uncle Henrik. On the train, a soldier asks them about where they are going. Annemarie worries that Kirsti will tell the soldier about Ellen but she instead talks about her new shoes.

## Key vocabulary words:

suspicious, tentatively, fascination, mourning

## Discussion Questions

- Why do they not want Ellen to go to school?
- Why are Mama and the children go to Uncle Henrik's house?
- Why did Annemarie think the conversation Papa had with Henrik was strange?
- How did Annemarie feel when Kirsti began talking with the soldier?
- Why do you think Mama and the children are going to Henrik's house?

## Notes to remember:

# Chapter 7: The House by the Sea

## Chapter summary:

Annemarie shows Ellen around her uncle's house. Ellen touches the sea for the first time and then Mama warns them that they must stay away from people. Ellen asks Annemarie where her Star of David necklace is and Annemarie says that it is hidden in a very safe place so she can return it in the future. As the girls sleep, Mama and her brother Henrik talk but Annemarie notices they are not laughing as they talk like they used to.

## Key vocabulary words:

harbor, hazy

## Discussion Questions

- How is this visit different than past visits to Henrik's house?
- Why does Mama warn the girls to not talk with anyone during their visit?

## Notes to remember:

# Chapter 8: There Has Been a Death

## Chapter summary:

Annemarie awakens to find hot oatmeal, cream and even butter. The girls spend the day playing outside while Mama cleans the house. When Henrik returns he talks with Mama about the next day being good for fishing. Annemarie does not understand but knows there is hidden meaning. Annemarie is confused when she is told that her Great-aunt Birte has died and she will be resting in the living room before her burial the next day. She knows she does not have an aunt Birte.

## Key vocabulary words:

scolded, irritated, ruefully, specter, pasture, dismay

## Discussion Questions

- What do they picture that makes them laugh about the soldiers taking the butter?
- Why does Mama scold Henrik when he returns home?
- What do you think Henrik means when he says tomorrow will be a good day for fishing?
- Why is Annemarie confused when she is told her Great-aunt Birte had passed away?

## Notes to remember:



# Chapter 9: Why Are You Lying?

## Chapter summary:

Annemarie followed her Uncle Henrik to the barn when he went to milk the cow. She asked him why they were lying about her aunt. He asked her if she was brave. Henrik told her that it was easier to be brave when you don't know everything and that is why neither of them knew exactly what was happening. The hearse arrived with the casket and people Annemarie did not know gathered in the living room. As it gets later, Henrik is saying he needs to leave to go to the boat. As he is ready to leave, Peter and Ellen's parents arrive.

## Key vocabulary words:

rhythmically, ancient, frothy, udder, affectionately, dismayed, mourning, reluctantly,

## Discussion Questions

- Why is Annemarie angry?
- Why doesn't Uncle Henrik tell Annemarie everything about what is happening?
- Why doesn't Annemarie tell Ellen what she learns?
- Why does Annemarie think it is odd that Mama is preparing food?

## Notes to remember:

# Chapter 10: Let Us Open the Casket

## Chapter summary:

Uncle Henrik leaves. Later in the night a car arrives and soldiers enter the house. They are worried about the number of people gathering at the house. When they are told about Great Aunt-Birte, they ask about the coffin being closed. Mama explains that the doctor was worried about typhus spreading so it had been closed. The soldiers leave and Peter begins reading from the Bible. One of the lines that stands out to Annemarie is "he who numbers the stars one by one..." When he is done reading, Peter says it is time.

## Key vocabulary words:

bond, recurring, staccato, typhus, linger

## Discussion Questions

- How do you think everyone is feeling when the soldiers arrive?
- What reason does Mama give for the coffin being closed?
- What does Annemarie think about when she hears "he who numbers the stars one by one..." ?

## Notes to remember:

# Chapter 11: Will We See You Again Soon, Peter?

## Chapter summary:

Inside the casket there are blankets and warm clothes. Peter tells them it will be cold and begins handing everyone warm clothes. When there is nothing for the baby, Mama gets Kirsti's favorite sweater for the baby to wear. Peter gives the baby drops to keep her asleep. Mama gives each person a small package of food. Peter gives Mr. Rosen a small packet and tells him it is very important to get it to Henrik. Peter says goodbye to Annemarie and Mama and leaves with the first group.

## Key vocabulary words:

rummaging, protruding, commotion

## Discussion Questions

- What is inside the casket?
- What can you predict is going to happen as Peter hands out warm clothes and blankets?
- Why is the mom of the baby scared?
- Can you make a prediction about what is in the packet?
- How has Annemarie's definition and feelings about pride changed?
- What has Annemarie determined will happen to the people gathered in her uncle's house?

## Notes to remember:

# Chapter 12: Where Was Mama?

## Chapter summary:

As the Rosen's leave, Mr. Rosen trips on the step and they start on their journey following Mama. After they were gone Annemarie went inside and cried before falling asleep in a chair. She panics when she wakes up and Mama has not returned. From the upstairs window, she find her at the start of the path.

## Key vocabulary words:

peered

## Discussion Questions

- Before she fell asleep, what was Annemarie doing?
- Why did Annemarie panic when she woke up?
- What did Annemarie see when she looked outside the window?

## Notes to remember:

# Chapter 13: Run! As Fast As You Can!

## Chapter summary:

Annemarie ran to her mom and discovered that she had safely delivered the Rosens but then broke her ankle as she ran back. As they enter the house, they see that Mr. Rosen had dropped the envelope he needed to deliver to Henrik. Mama told Annemarie to pack a basket with food and put the packet on the bottom. She told Annemarie to run in order to get the packet to Uncle Henrik before he left.

## Key vocabulary words:

faltered, vast

## Discussion Questions

- Why did Mama drag herself back to the house instead of waiting to be found?
- Why did Mama panic as they were walking in the house?
- Why did Mama want Annemarie to pretend that she was a "silly empty-headed little girl" if she was stopped?

## Notes to remember:

# Chapter 14: On the Dark Path

## Chapter summary:

As Annemarie ran, she thought about telling Kirsti the story of Little Red Riding Hood. As she approached the harbor, she heard growling and then encountered four soldiers and two dogs.

## Key vocabulary words:

donned, segment, brusque, herring, tantalize

## Discussion Questions

- What did Annemarie do in her head to help her not be scared as she ran?
- How does the author describe the setting to show the reader the fear Annemarie is feeling?

## Notes to remember:



# Chapter 15: My Dogs Smell Meat!

## Chapter summary:

When she was stopped, she remembered how careless Kirsti had been when they were stopped by the soldiers at home. She tried to act like Kirsti would, not caring and unafraid. One of the soldiers took pieces of the lunch and opened the envelope. The envelope held a handkerchief that the dogs lunged at then left alone. The soldiers let her go and then Annemarie made it to Uncle Henrik's boat before he left.

## Key vocabulary words:

tense, consumed, implored, intently, lunged, quavering

## Discussion Questions

- Why did Annemarie pretend that she was annoyed with the soldiers?
- How did you feel as the soldiers were going through the basket?
- What does Uncle Henrik tell Annemarie when she delivers the basket?

## Notes to remember:

# Chapter 16: I Will Tell You Just a Little

## Chapter summary:

After dinner, Uncle Henrik takes Annemarie outside to tell her a little about what has happened. Annemarie learns that the Rosens were on the boat and made it safely to Sweden where they would not need to hide from the Nazis. The soldiers knew the Jews were escaping from the country but did not know how. They had been searching boats looking for them. Scientists had invented a special drug that they put on the handkerchief that will attract the dogs and then prevent them from being able to smell. When the dogs search the boats, they will not be able to smell any humans who are hiding.

## Key vocabulary words:

hastily, warily,

## Discussion Questions

- Why is Kirsti unhappy as they talk about Ellen being gone?
- Why did Uncle Henrik take Annemarie outside to the barn?
- Why does Uncle Henrik tell Annemarie that he will tell her a little?
- How has Annemarie been brave even though she was very scared?
- Why are the soldiers searching the boats?
- Why was the handkerchief so important?
- What were the "ifs" Annemarie was thinking over in her head?

## Notes to remember:

# Chapter 17: All This Long Time

## Chapter summary:

The war ended two years later. During the time since the Jews had fled, the people of Denmark had taken care of their homes. We learn that Peter had died. Annemarie is told that her sister died because she was also a part of the Resistance and had been ran over by a car as she ran from a meeting. Annemarie takes Ellen's necklace out of the pocket in Lise's yellow dress where she had hidden it years ago and asks Papa to fix it for when Ellen returns.

## Key vocabulary words:

rejoicing

## Discussion Questions

- Why does Mama say they have taken care of the homes of the Jews?
- How had Peter died?
- What does Mama tell her about her sister Lise?
- Where had Annemarie hidden Ellen's necklace?

## Notes to remember:

# Afterword

## Chapter summary:

Lois Lowry describes her inspiration for the story. She explains the parts of history that she has included in her story.

## Key vocabulary words:

deprivation, sacrifices

## Discussion Questions

- What inspired the author to write this story?
- What do we learn about the facts that Lois Lowry puts in the story?
- What lesson does the author end the story with?

## Notes to remember:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Emotions

Emotion I felt	What happened to make me feel this way

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Emotions – Interactive Notebook

The author does a good job getting the reader to feel as they read. What are some of the emotions you felt as you read? List an emotion you felt as you read on each flap. Underneath explain what happened to make you feel this way.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Characters Change – Interactive Notebook

Choose three characters from the book. Write each name on a flap and draw a picture to show each in the square. Underneath each flap, describe how you believe the character has changed during the book.



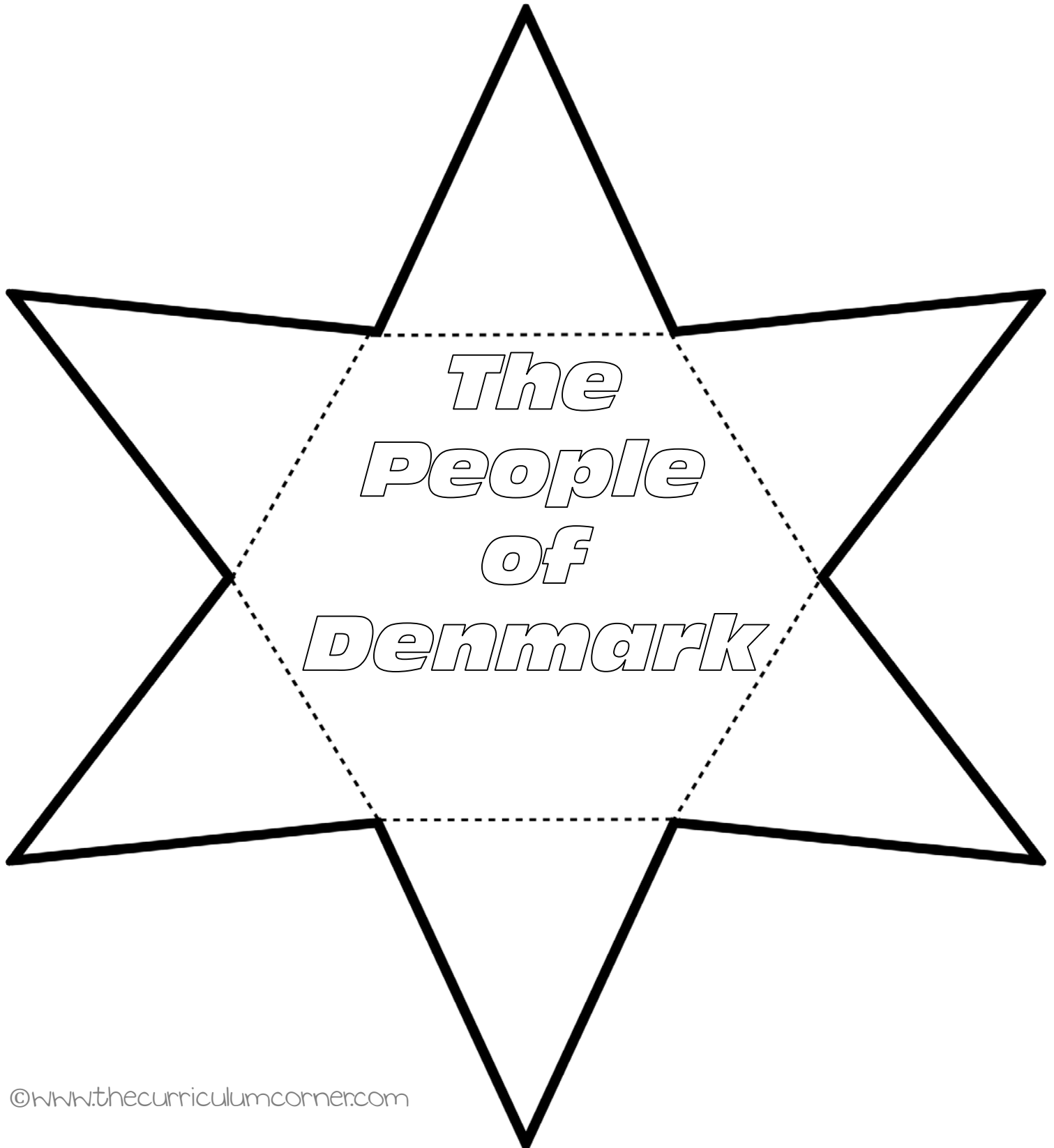
# *Emotions*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The People of Denmark

Use this interactive notebook page to describe the people of Denmark during this time period. Choose character traits that you saw displayed as you read. On each flap, write a different trait. Make sure you will be able to discuss the words you chose and why you chose them with your group.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# King Christian X

Research to find facts about King Christian X. Share three facts you learn about him below.

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter/ Pages Read:

New words or important words in the reading

Important characters I met

The most important events in this section are:

Historical facts I have learned:

Questions or predictions I have:

The word is:

This word means: (in my own words)



A large rectangular box with a dotted border, intended for writing the word's meaning in one's own words.

Here is a picture that helps me remember what a



**I found an example!**

Here is where I found the word:

Two horizontal dashed lines for writing the source where the word was found.

Another word that has a similar meaning is:



The word is:

This word means: (in my own words)

Here is a picture that helps me remember the meaning:

The word is:

This word means: (in my own words)

Here is a picture that helps me remember the meaning:

# Important words from *Number the Stars*

word	words & pictures to help me understand

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Book Review

Why would you recommend or not recommend others read this book? Give three reasons. Explain each of your thoughts.

I would \_\_\_\_\_ this book because:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Response

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Response

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