

Dear Parents and Students,

Over the summer, future sixth graders are asked to do some summer reading in order to keep their minds thinking and fresh for the start of the year in August. Reading is like any other skill: to get better at it, you need to practice!



The fifth graders have learned all about reading strategies this year. For their summer reading, they are required to read two books: one grade appropriate book of his/her own choosing and one book that I am assigning. Each student is receiving a copy of Number the Stars, a Newbery Award winner, to read this summer. When students finish the free choice book, they must complete the **four block book report sheet** that is attached to this note. (If they need additional writing space or prefer to write on lined paper, they may attach looseleaf with their answers.) I have also attached specific questions for Number the Stars, along with some background information. **The book report for the free choice book and the Number the Stars work is due back to school on Friday, August 23.**

My suggestion would be to read the free choice book first, and to read Number the Stars toward the end of July or into August so that it is more fresh in their minds. We will use Number the Stars as an example to understand some of our literary terms at the beginning of the year. If you are looking for some suggestions of other books to read, below is a list of some authors that may be of interest. Some of the authors listed wrote books that the students read in fifth grade, and the other authors are recommended by fifth and sixth graders. Students do not have to choose from the list below; these are only suggestions. Please choose a book that is appropriate for your reading level (no Dr. Seuss books☺).

These assignments will be posted on the school website in case you misplace this paper before August rolls around. Happy reading!

Mrs. Shelton

Some author options for your second summer reading book:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Books by: Gordon Korman | Andrew Clements | Sharon Creech | |
| Rick Riordan | Jim Murphy | Gary Paulson | Kate DiCamillo |
| C.S. Lewis | Christopher Paul Curtis | Dan Gutman | |

FREE CHOICE BOOK REPORT

Characters - Name 3 main characters and describe why they are important to the story.

Write 4 sentences of main events.

Beginning

Name: _____
Title: _____
Author: _____

Middle Write 4 sentences of main events.

Ending
Were you surprised by the ending? Why or why not?

Would you recommend this book to other 6th graders? Why or why not?

Name _____

Number the Stars Summer Work

Ch. 1-4

1. What happened to Annemarie, Ellen, and Kirsti on their way home from school. (Write 3 sentences.)

2. Who is Lise and what happened to her? (1 sentence)

3. What are 3 ways that life in Copenhagen changed when the Nazis took over the city? (3 sentences.)

4. What religion do the Rosens practice? Why is that a problem? (1 sentence)

Ch. 5-8

5. What happens in the middle of the night when Ellen sleeps at Annemarie's? (2 sentences)

6. Why were the German soldiers suspicious of Ellen and how did Papa protect her? (2 sentences)

7. What is Annemarie afraid that Kirsti will do when they are riding the train to visit Uncle Henrik? (1 sentence)

Ch. 9-12

8. Who is Great-aunt Birte? What happens during the funeral? (3 sentences)

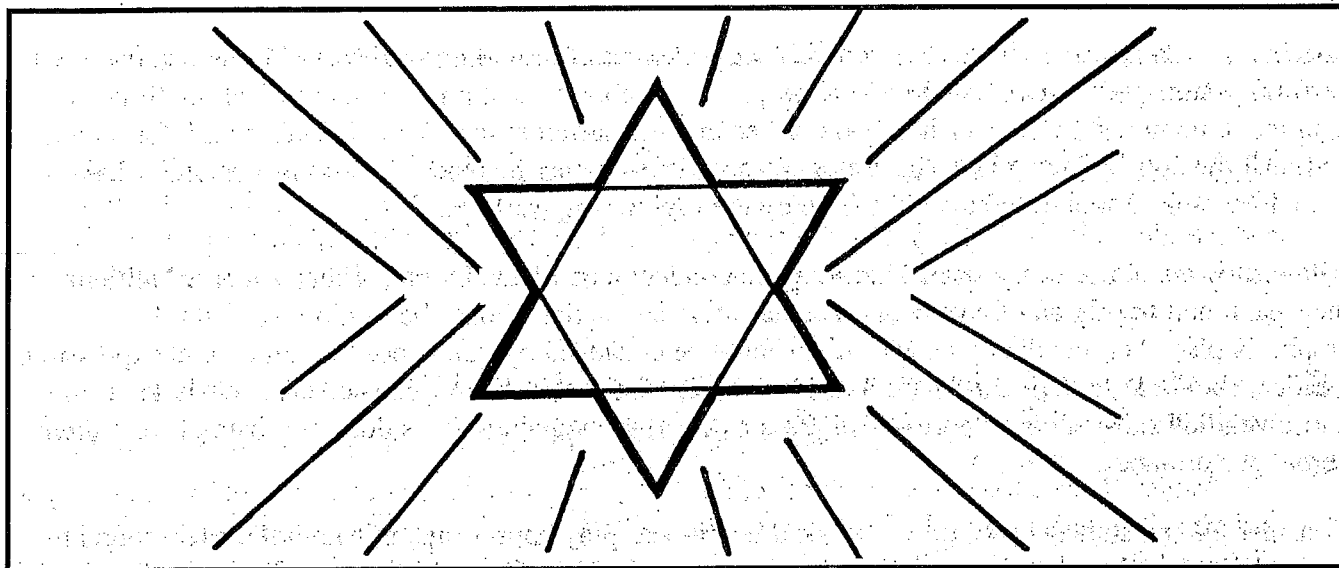
9. What does Peter give to the baby? Why? (1 sentence)

10. What plan does Peter come up with to help the group get away? (3 sentences)

Ch. 13-15

11. What happens to Mama when she is on her way back from the boat? (1 sentence)

The Miracle Rescue



On April 9, 1940, Germany invaded the Scandinavian country of Denmark. King Christian X, the ruler of Denmark, knew his small country was no match for Hitler's forces. He surrendered after only a few hours of fighting. The Nazis decided to keep the Danish government in power as long as its officials met their demands. During the next three years of the German occupation, Danish Resistance Forces were formed and began to sabotage factories and transportation systems. As a result, the Nazis took over the government in August 1943.

In October 1943, Jewish people living in Denmark learned that the Nazis were planning to round up the entire Jewish population and send them to death camps. Within hours, over 7,000 Danish Jews were safely hidden in the homes of non-Jewish neighbors and friends. On the night of the Nazis' roundup, 284 Jews were arrested. The Nazis continued to search over the next month, and 200 more Danish Jews were located and sent to death camps.

Small groups of Jews, totaling approximately 7,200 people, were smuggled by Danish Resistance Fighters to fishing villages along the coast. From there, they were hidden in fishing boats in order to cross the 15-mile (9.3-kilometer) channel to Sweden, a neutral country. Many Resistance Fighters lost their lives taking part in this smuggling operation.

The Jews who were arrested by the Nazis were not forgotten. The Danish government persisted in knowing their whereabouts and even inspected the camps where they were being held. Nazi records indicate that 51 Danish Jews died in these camps from natural causes. The Danish authorities believe these deaths were the result of atrocious living conditions in the camps. There is no record of any Danish Jew being killed in a gas chamber by the Nazis.

After World War II when the Jews returned to their homes in Denmark, they found that their fellow countrymen had cared for and protected their property. Their homes were the same as when they had left to escape the Nazis.

The Danish people were certainly courageous and heroic. Their story provided a bright ray of hope during the dark days of World War II.