



**WELCOME TO ESL GRADUATE STUDIES**

**NUMBER THE STARS  
BOOK CLUB**

**CHAPTER 7**

**25 & 26 JUNE 2025**

**MARIANA (WEDNESDAY)**

# **45-SECOND SUMMARY**

**GIVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE ASSIGNED READING  
IN 45 SECONDS OR LESS.**

## **The House by the Sea**

Annemarie, Ellen, and Mama go to Uncle Henrik's house by the sea. Annemarie and Ellen walk to the water and talk about Sweden. Mama tells them to be careful because soldiers are near. Ellen feels scared and asks about her necklace.

Annemarie says it is safe. Ellen misses her parents. At night, Annemarie hears Mama and Uncle Henrik talking. It feels like old times, but now no one is laughing.

Everyone is scared.

**FATEMEH (THURSDAY)**

# **45-SECOND SUMMARY**

**GIVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE ASSIGNED READING  
IN 45 SECONDS OR LESS.**

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**SASHA (WEDNESDAY)**

# **COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

1. Where do Annemarie, Ellen, and Mama go in this chapter?
2. What does Annemarie think about the sea when she sees it?
3. What do the girls do after they arrive at Uncle Henrik's house?
4. Annemarie seems to feel confused around the adults. Why do you think this is?

**BANU (THURSDAY)**

# **COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

1- What does the chapter title "The House by the Sea" symbolize in the story?

2-What is Ellen's reaction to being at Uncle Henrik's house?

3-What mood and feeling are created when the family arrives at Uncle Henrik's home?

4-Why does Mama warn the girls not to talk to anyone else ?

LILY S. (WEDNESDAY)

# VOCABULARY BUILDER

CHOOSE 3–5 IMPORTANT OR INTERESTING WORDS FROM THE READING.

- 1) Wispy: Something very light. Thin, fine, and weak.  
Example: The sky was blue with a few wispy clouds.
- 2) Speckled: Something that is marked with a small dots, patches of a different color than the background.  
Example: The speckled frog.
- 3) Bobbed: Made quick short movements up and down.  
Example: The fleet of boats bobbed in the lake.
- 4) Hazy: Misty, foggy, cloudy or smokey. Vague, obscure, confused, indefinite.  
Example: High clouds made the sky hazy. Hazy memories.
- 5) Darted off: Moved suddenly and quickly in a particular direction.  
Example: The squirrel darted off into the bushes.

MONICA (THURSDAY)

# VOCABULARY BUILDER

CHOOSE 3–5 IMPORTANT OR INTERESTING WORDS FROM THE READING.

1. **gnarled**– knobby, rough, and twisted especially with age.
2. **speckled**– covered or marked with a large number of small spots or patches of color.
3. **squinted**–look at someone or something with one or both eyes partly closed in an attempt to see more clearly.

## Sentences

When the Corcorde passed in the sky we recognized by the sound but we always **squinted** trying to see it with detail from the ground.

My tia Tona lived in a small town in San Diego de la Union, I remember a **gnarled** tree in the atrium of church.

Martha wore for her birthday party a dress with a **speckled** pattern.

**ESMERALDA (WEDNESDAY)**

# SOUND SPOTTER

**IDENTIFY 3-5 WORDS THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO PRONOUNCE OR THAT SOUND INTERESTING.**

flower-sprigged: decorated with small flower designs

'flau.ar/ sprigd/

settled: got into a comfortable position

seh·tld

dock: a platform where boats stop

daak

**ERIKA (THURSDAY)**

# **SOUND SPOTTER**

**IDENTIFY 3-5 WORDS THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO PRONOUNCE OR THAT SOUND INTERESTING.**

Speckled

Squinted

Hazy

Wade / Weighed

Faded

## MARISELA (WEDNESDAY)

# CHARACTER TRACKER

DESCRIBE ONE CHARACTER'S TRAITS OR ACTIONS IN THE READING.

Pages 60-61

Since this chapter is mainly focused on Ellen and Annemarie, **whose** traits have been described in previous lessons, I decided to go for an action in the reading.

After the stressful days that they have been facing, I can imagine how happy the girls were when they were exploring the farmhouse. Ellen's expression makes think about that when she says "it is beautiful." I imagine how Annemarie felt by "seeing Ellen's pleasure".

They "ran across the high-grassed meadow, through the late wildflowers [...]" "I have never been this close to the sea", Ellen said. [...] "I mean the real sea, the way it is here. Open like this - a whole world of water". I summarize this amazing scene in two words: happiness and freedom, and of course I think the girls had a beautiful expression **on** their faces, smiling and trying to catch everything with their astonished eyes.

# FLAVIA (THURSDAY)

## CHARACTER TRACKER

### DESCRIBE ONE CHARACTER'S TRAITS OR ACTIONS IN THE READING.

Mrs. Johansen is a housewife who lives in Denmark during the Nazi occupation in World War II. She is the mother of Annemarie, Kirsti, and Lise (who died at the age of eighteen, just a few weeks before her wedding). In the story she helps to protect a Jewish family from the Nazis.

**She could have been a part of our activity class when we read about "Inspiring Women." She represents:**

- a woman who shows deep empathy for the struggles of her Jewish neighbors
- a strong and courageous woman who faces great danger by offering shelter and traveling to protect her friend's Jewish daughter;
- someone who remains calm even in the face of serious danger;
- a caring mother who is deeply concerned with protecting her loved ones, both physically and emotionally, managing to hide her fears and worries;
- and how kind, gentle, and careful she is, no matter what is happening around her.

## ARSENIA (WEDNESDAY)

# SCENE SETTER

**PICK ONE PLACE FROM THE STORY AND USE CREATIVE, DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE TO DESCRIBE IT.**

I choose Uncle Henrik's house by the sea. It's an old farmhouse house with a red roof, perched on a quiet hill and surrounded by tall grass that sways in the wind—just the kind of place where a curious cat might hide. The air is filled with the salty scent of the ocean, and in the distance, the waves crash gently against the rocks in a soft, endless rhythm. Though the house looks old from the outside, inside it feels warm and safe. The large bed, once belonging to Annemarie's grandparents and mother, and the handmade quilt sewn by her great-grandmother, give the room a cozy, comforting feeling—full of family memories and love. It's a place that feels far from danger, like a secret shelter hidden in nature.

**AURICELIA (THURSDAY)**

# **SCENE SETTER**

**PICK ONE PLACE FROM THE STORY AND USE CREATIVE, DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE TO DESCRIBE IT.**

Ellen has never seen the sea so close like this before, so I imagine a wild beach with a lots of differences of sizes stones and dark sand with sea shells. wilder and freer.

# INTERPRETIVE QUESTIONS

**CRISTY (WEDNESDAY)**

# CULTURE CONNECTOR

**FIND ONE ELEMENT THAT CONNECTS TO YOUR HOME CULTURE  
OR TO MODERN U.S. CULTURE.**



Chapter 7 reminded me of the family union that exists in Mexico (I don't know if it exists like that in the US), but in Mexico family union is very important and even if we get married or live far away, we siblings are always close. That's why I liked that part that reminded me of family union, how Annemarie's mother worries about her brother and he loves his sister so the boat is named like her.

*THAT IS MY FAVORITE PICTURE WITH MY BROTHER AND SISTER WHEN MY BROTHER GOT MARRIED .. THAT IS A BIG SIBLINGS LOVE 😊*

**STEFANIE (THURSDAY)**

# **CULTURE CONNECTOR**

**FIND ONE ELEMENT THAT CONNECTS TO YOUR HOME CULTURE  
OR TO MODERN U.S. CULTURE.**

## **Helping Each Other (Family and Community Support)**

In the last chapters of "Number the Stars," we see how important family and friends are. Annemarie's family bravely protects the Jewish Rosen family. They are ready to risk their lives to keep Ellen safe, treating her like their own child. They don't think twice about putting themselves in danger to help a friend's daughter.

My culture, Mexican culture, also has a very strong sense of helping others, called "solidarity." For example, after natural disasters like earthquakes, Mexican people quickly organize themselves into rescue teams. This idea of helping each other is deep in our strong family and community ties. The family is a group that supports each other. This feeling of helping each other, and the idea of caring for your neighbor, friend, and even strangers when they need help, is a normal part of our culture.

**CAROLINA (WEDNESDAY)**

# **EMOTIONS EXPLORER**

**CHOOSE A MOMENT THAT MADE YOU  
FEEL SOMETHING (HAPPY, SAD, SURPRISED, ANGRY, ETC.).**

Annemarie's feeling that something is being hidden from her is heightened when she hears her mother and uncle talking, but without the usual laughter of their conversations.

Emotions:

- Frightened: She is frightened because the conversation is serious, without laughter.
- Confused: Annemarie Not understanding what is happening
- Curious: She is wanting to know more about something

**KARINA (THURSDAY)**

# **EMOTIONS EXPLORER**

**CHOOSE A MOMENT THAT MADE YOU  
FEEL SOMETHING (HAPPY, SAD, SURPRISED, ANGRY, ETC.).**

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LILY L. (WEDNESDAY)

# PASSAGE PICKER

## **Applesauce.**

Annemarie's mama said to the girls that she found enough apples for applesauce and that her brother Henrik will bring home some fish and there is wood for the fire. This meant that they would be warm and well fed in the evening.

Annemarie told her. "It is not a bad time, then. Not if there is \_\_\_\_\_."

I think these are very important words from a little girl. These words show us the brave and determined character of Annemarie. Intuitively, she understands that everyone needs to try to be able to enjoy the little things in difficult, dark times.

LILY L. (WEDNESDAY)

# PASSAGE PICKER

## Applesauce.

----- said, "It is not a bad time, then. Not if there is -----."

IRA (THURSDAY)

# PASSAGE PICKER

***“If you see anyone at all – even someone you know, one of Henrik’s friends – it is better if you come in the house. It is too difficult – maybe even dangerous – to explain who Ellen is.”***

***Ellen looked up and bit her lip.***

I think it's very scary and terrible when it's dangerous to explain even to familiar people who is visiting you. The time when you have to hide in the house from everyone, and you feel terribly lonely and scared because neither you nor anyone else knows where your parents are.

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***“This leaf may have come from a tree in Sweden. I t could have blown from a tree into the sea, and floated all the way across. See over there?” she said, pointing. “See the land? Way across there? That’s Sweden”.***

Very often it seems that salvation is near, but for some reason it always turns out to be difficult. Even a leaf from a tree from another country can easily end up in neighboring Denmark... But it is practically impossible for Jews to end up in free Sweden...

MARIA (WEDNESDAY)

# PREDICTION MAKER

MAKE A THOUGHTFUL PREDICTION ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT.

I think Ellen is going to be a little more trustful, because she's at Uncle Henrik's house, but at the same time she doesn't know if there are more soldiers who are going to ask them questions, especially about their hair color. Mrs. Johansen warns them not to trust just anybody.

**“DON'T LET DOWN YOUR GUARD” =  
BECOME MORE TRUSTFUL AND RELAXED  
ABOUT A SITUATION**

**ANA (THURSDAY)**

# **PREDICTION MAKER**

**MAKE A THOUGHTFUL PREDICTION ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT.**

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## ESL Book Club Assignments (Chapters Eight and Nine)

Student:	Responsibility:	
<b>Maria / Ana</b>	<b>45-Second Summarizer:</b>	Give a brief overview of the assigned reading in 45 seconds or less.
	➤ Skills practiced: summarizing, sequencing, time awareness	
<b>Mariana / Fatemeh</b>	<b>Comprehension Quizzer:</b>	Create a brief (3-5 question) quiz to test reading comprehension.
	➤ Skills practiced: reading for detail, forming questions	
<b>Sasha / Banu</b>	<b>Vocabulary Builder:</b>	Choose 3–5 important or interesting words from the reading.
	➤ Skills practiced: vocabulary acquisition, context clues, paraphrasing	
<b>Lily S. / Monica</b>	<b>Sound Spotter:</b>	Identify 3-5 words that are difficult to pronounce or that sound interesting.
	➤ Skills practiced: noticing pronunciation patterns, asking for help, listening	
<b>Esmeralda / Erika</b>	<b>Scene Setter:</b>	Pick one place from the story and use creative, descriptive language to describe it.
	➤ Skills practiced: spacial thinking, descriptive language, making inferences	
<b>Arsenia / Auricelia</b>	<b>Culture Connector:</b>	Find one element that connects to your home culture or to modern U.S. culture.
	➤ Skills practiced: making comparisons, speaking about culture, critical thinking	
<b>Cristy / Stefanie</b>	<b>Character Tracker:</b>	Describe one character’s traits or actions in the reading.
	➤ Skills practiced: character analysis, using descriptive language	
<b>Marisela / Flavia</b>	<b>Emotions Explorer:</b>	Choose a moment that made you feel something (happy, sad, surprised, angry).
	➤ Skills practiced: emotional vocabulary, personal connections, speaking fluency	
<b>Carolina / Karina</b>	<b>Passage Picker:</b>	Choose one sentence or short passage that you found meaningful or powerful.
	➤ Skills practiced: reading aloud, text analysis, expression	
<b>Lori / Lori</b>	<b>Grammar Catcher:</b>	Find one interesting grammar structure or pattern in the reading.
	➤ Skills practiced: grammar awareness, noticing language in context	
<b>Lily L. / Ira</b>	<b>Prediction Maker:</b>	Make a thoughtful prediction about what might happen next.
	➤ Skills practiced: inferencing, using evidence from text	