

WELCOME TO ESL GRADUATE STUDIES

**NUMBER THE STARS
BOOK CLUB**

CHAPTERS TWO & THREE

4 & 5 JUNE 2025

ARSENIA (WEDNESDAY)

45-SECOND SUMMARY

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

Annemarie fondly remembers the time before the Nazi occupation, when Denmark was free and King Christian X rode through the streets, beloved by all. Her father explains that the people protect him because they love him. Lise, Annemarie's older sister, is also mentioned—her mysterious death still weighs on the family.

Days later, Annemarie and Ellen find Mrs. Hirsch's button shop closed, with a German sign on the door. When they tell Annemarie's mother, she explains that the Nazis have started closing Jewish-owned shops. It's the first time the girls truly feel the impact of the war and the danger facing Jews in their community.



MONICA / AURICELIA (THURSDAY)

45-SECOND SUMMARY

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

Kristi asked Annemarie for a bedtime fairy tale story. She made up the story of a King and his family, while her thoughts evolve around King Christian to whom she and her sister Lise see once, who was loved by the people from Denmark and who decided to surrender to the Nazis to protect the life of his people.

Annemarie missed her sister Lise, they still see Peter, Lise's fiancé who sometimes visits. She realized how the world has changed, but not the fairy tale stories which she concluded saying "and they live happily ever after" to her little sister who was already asleep.

Annemarie, Ellen and Kristi take now a longer route to get home to avoid the Nazi soldiers. Winter is approaching, electricity is scarce and they start preparing for it. On their way back from school they stop at Mrs. Hirsch's store to buy a button, but the shop was closed, there was a sign in German with a swastika. Annemarie came home told her mother, who was concerned and went to visit Mrs. Rosen. Later on, she came back, woke up Annemarie to letting her know that Peter was paying them a visit. The Germans give orders to the Nazi soldiers to close all the stores run by Jews, he told them. Mrs. Hirsch and her family were Jewish, Ellen and her parents were too, and all the Jewish community needed the protection of the Danish people, Annemarie was not sure to be ready to die to help them, it was a relief to be an ordinary person just like their friends that will never be called upon for courage.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- WHAT STORY DOES ANNEMARIE TELL KIRSTI AT BEDTIME?
- HOW DOES ANNEMARIE FEEL WHEN SHE REMEMBERS HER OLDER SISTER, LISE?
- WHO ARE KING CHRISTIAN'S BODY GUARDS?
- WHY DO KIRSTI AND ANNEMARIE GO TO THE BUTTON SHOP? WHAT DO THEY DISCOVER THERE?
- WHO IS PETER NEILSEN?

CAROLINA (WEDNESDAY)

VOCABULARY BUILDER

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

Chapter Two:

begged: asking for something in a strong and desperate way

fairy tale: children's story about magical and imaginary beings and lands

snuggled: move close to someone or something to feel warm and comfortable

tale teller: people who tell stories, especially fairy tales or traditional stories

sprinkled: small drops or particles of substance)added a small amount of something throughout

ball: large and fancy parties where the people dance

tale: fictitious or true narrative or story

amused: to find something funny

dim: not shining brightly or clearly

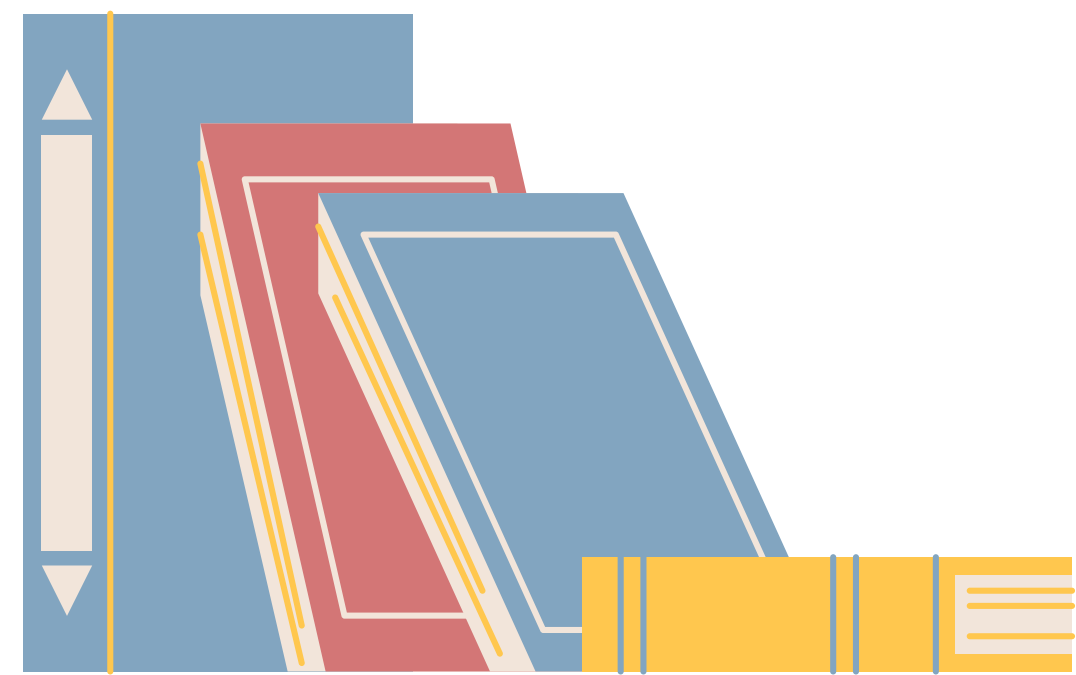
gowns: long, elegant dresses worn for a special occasions

feast: a large, special meals with a lot of food

murmur: speak quietly almost in a whisper

balconies : raised platforms on the outside of a building, often with a railing

subject: people who are ruled by a king or queen



suitable: appropriate or right for a particular situation

ridden: traveled on or moved using something, like a horse

stared: looked something for a long time without moving your eyes

lingered: stay longer than necessary or expected

surrendered: gave up control or power to someone else

errand: a short trip to do a specific task or job

lap: the top part of your things where you are sitting down

shivered: shook slightly because of cold, fear or strong emotion, frightened

lace edging: a decorative, thin and patterned border made of thread

trousseau: a collection of clothes and linens bride prepares for her wedding

sigh: emit a long, deep, audible breath expressing sadness

thread: a thin string used for sewing or crocheting

nod: understanding, or given someone a signal

fiercely: with a lot of force or intensity

huge: extremely large in size

crushed: completely defeated or broken / typically causing serious damage or injury

fist: a hand with fingers curled tightly into the palm

carved: cut into a shape or pattern, usually in wood or stone

trunk: a large, strong box used for storing things

neckline: around the neck of a dress or shirt

tickling: touching someone lightly to make them laugh

pranks: playful tricks or jokes

shriek: a loud, high-pitched scream or laugh

lingered: stay longer than necessary or expected

Chapter 3

dawdled: move slowly, wasting time

scampered; ran quickly

knit: make in such way (made by knitting)

mittens: gloves with one part for the thumb and other for the fingers together

slightly: to small degree, inconsiderably

tidied: cleaned up and made neat

snuggle: settle or move into warm, comfortable position

hesitate: pause before saying or doing something, especially through uncertainty

glanced: looked quickly at something

haughtily: in a proud, arrogant, or superior way

knelt: got down on one or both knees (past tense of kneel)

kroner: the currency of Denmark

giggled: laugh lightly in a nervous, affected, or silly manner.

stooped: bent forward with rounded shoulders

unruly: messy, hard to control

squinting: partly closing the eyes to see more clearly

nudge: push gently

swastika: a symbol used by the Nazis during world war II

grunted: made a low, short sound, usually to show annoyance or while sleeping

curfew: a rule that people must stay indoors after a certain time

barefoot: wearing nothing on the feet

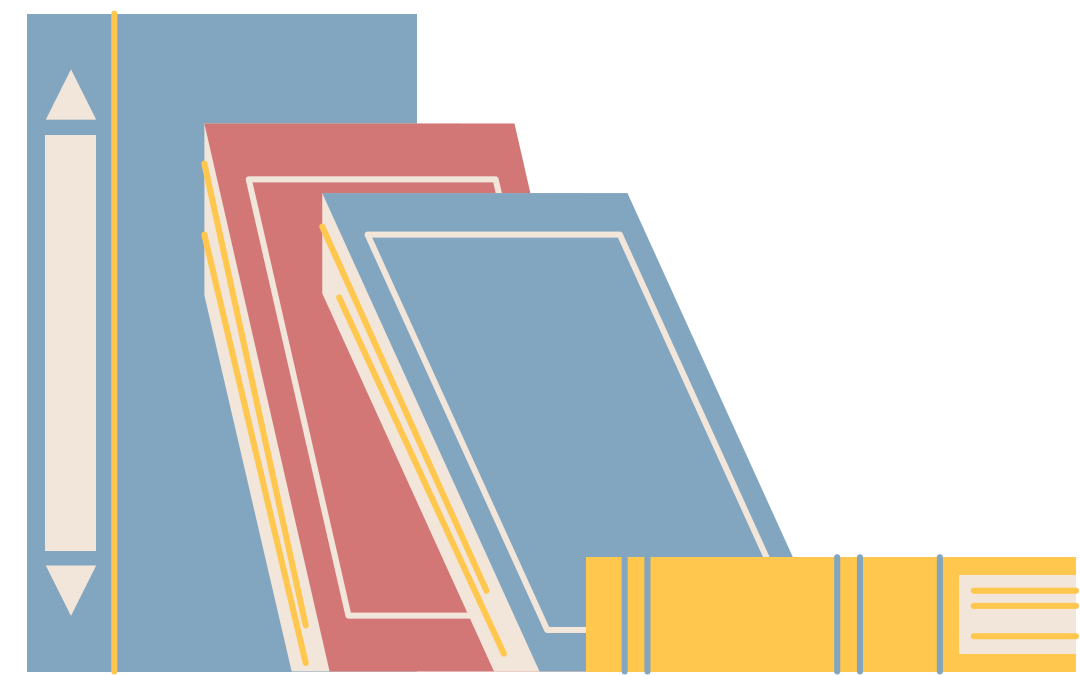
cocoon: (envelop) the mother cocooned her baby in layers of blankets

STEFANIE (THURSDAY)

VOCABULARY BUILDER

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

1. Shivered: To tremble involuntarily, typically as a result of cold, fear, excitement, or illness.
2. Mourned : To feel or express deep sorrow or grief, especially for the death of someone. It can also refer to feeling regret or sadness over the loss of something (e.g., an opportunity, a past time).
3. Shriek : A long, loud, piercing cry, typically one expressing pain, fear, or excitement. As a verb, it means to utter such a cry.
4. Drawled: To speak in a slow, prolonged way, typically with softened or slurred vowel sounds. This manner of speaking is often associated with certain regional accents.
5. Haughtily: In a disdainfully proud or arrogant manner; an attitude or action that conveys superiority or disdain.



MARISELA (WEDNESDAY)

SOUND SPOTTER

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

Page 12, paragraph 2: /'brēIHING/

...until Kirsti's deep, even **breathing** told her that her sister was sound asleep.

Page 14, paragraph 3: /'SHivər/*

Annemarie had **shivered**.

*I couldn't find the phoneme for shivered.

Page 19, paragraph 6: /'hɔ:tɪli/

Kirsti said **haughtily** from the bedroom doorway.

Page 21, paragraph 4: /,rēə'SHɔ̃r/

Annemarie **reassured** her.



FLAVIA (THURSDAY)

SOUND SPOTTER

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

1. Dawdled (Page 18)
2. Shriek (Page 17)
3. Shivered (Page 14)
4. Surrendered (Page 13)
5. Shrugged (Page 25)

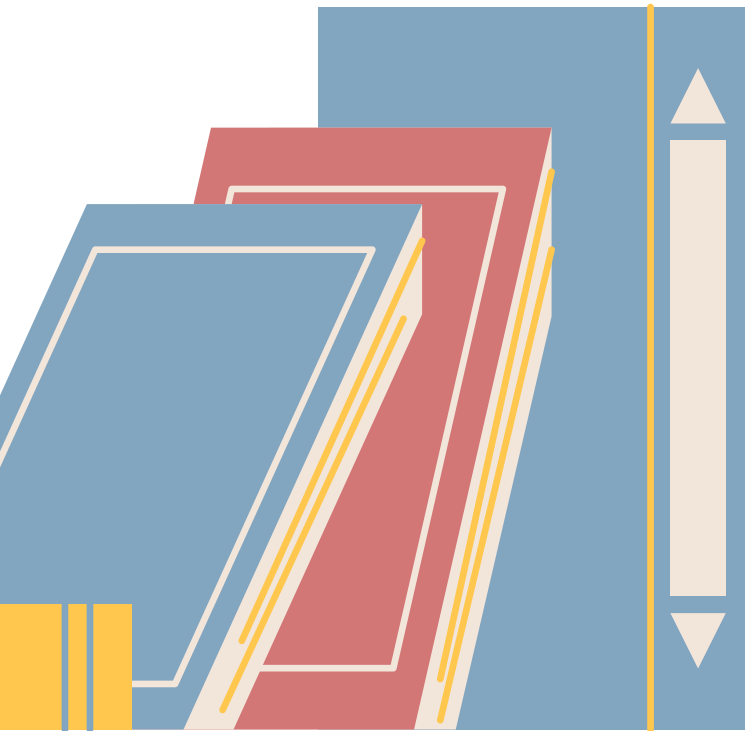


MARIA (WEDNESDAY)

CHARACTER TRACKER

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

Not yet submitted



ANA (THURSDAY)

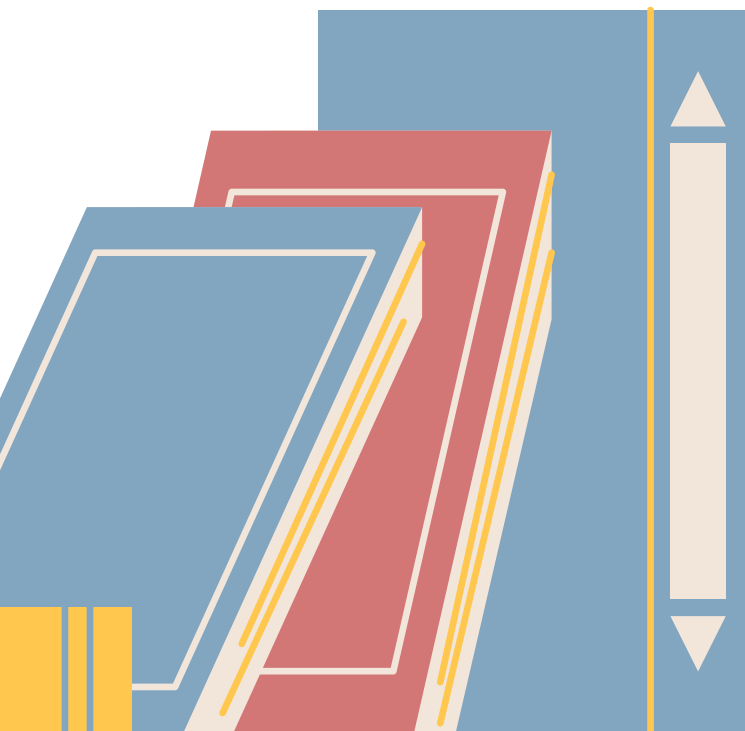
CHARACTER TRACKER

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



King Christian was a very beloved king in Denmark. He lived in the center of Copenhagen and was a very kind and humane person, which is why everyone loved him, even to the point that they would have given their lives for him.

He couldn't stand against the situation that was happening because he didn't have enough soldiers to fight the Germans. That's why he couldn't do much to help his people.



CAROLINA (WEDNESDAY)

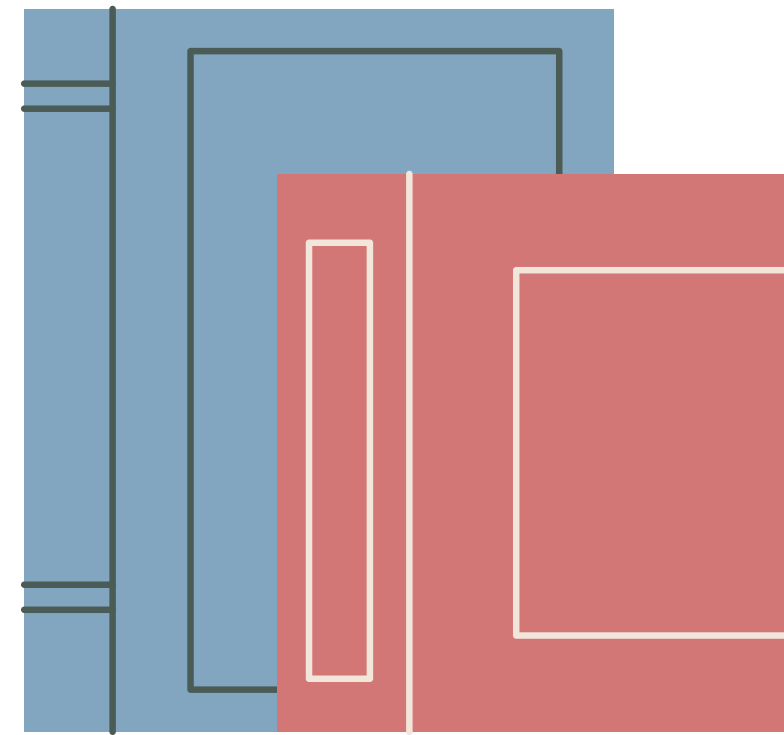
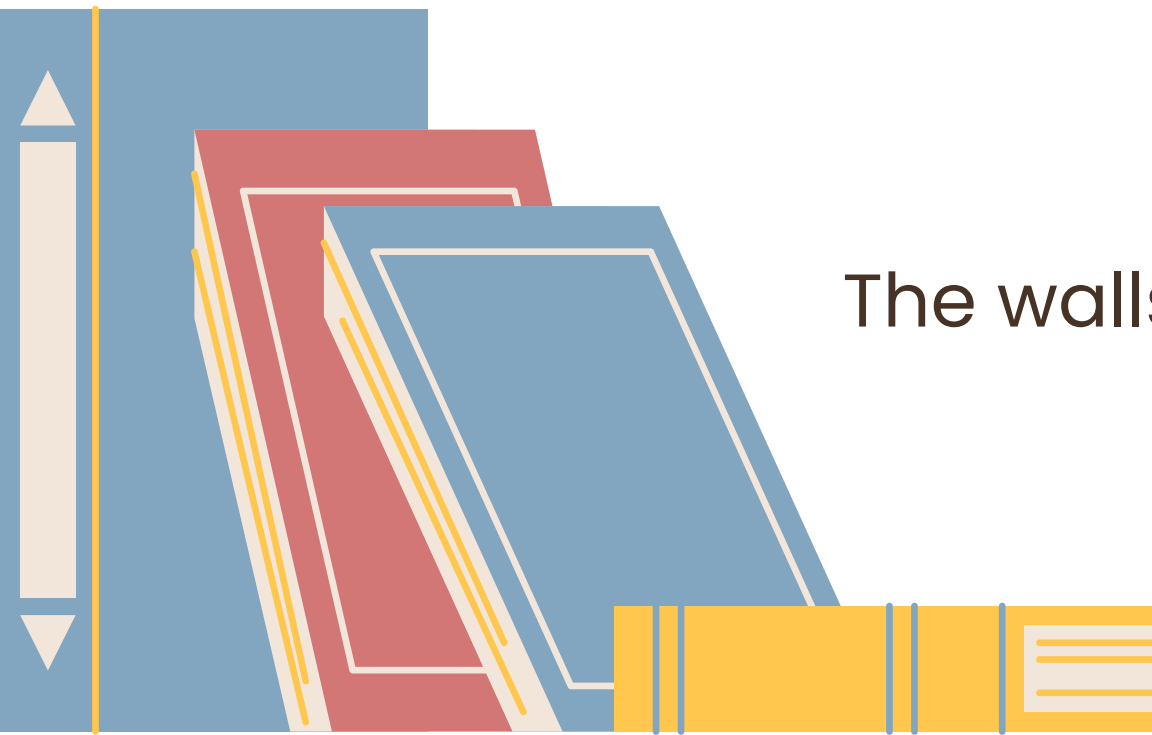
SCENE SETTER

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

Scene: The kitchen

The apartment's dining room had been converted into a kitchen due to a shortage of supplies. The stove serves to cook and heat the house during the harsh winters of wartime.

The walls were already dark, and the lighting was so dim that it was difficult to see.



KARINA (THURSDAY)

SCENE SETTER

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

Scene: Annemarie and Kirsti's bedroom

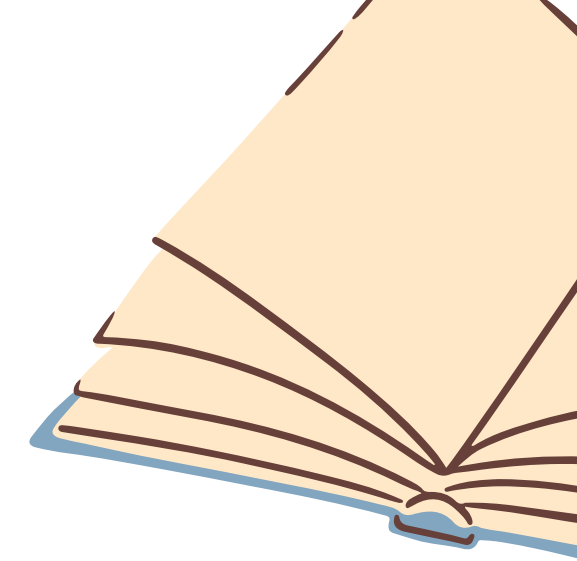
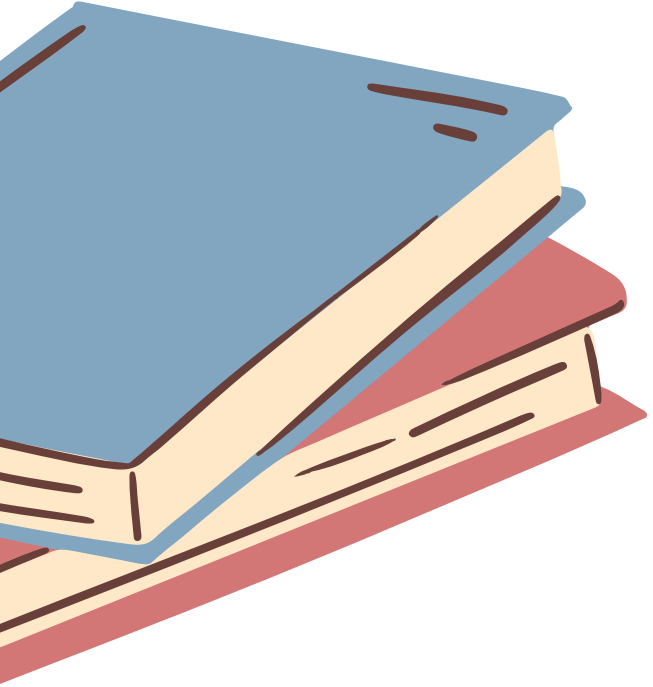
Annemarie and Kirsty are in their room, Annemarie is telling Kirsty a fairy tale meantime they are in bed. Trying to sleep.

The room is small with yellow and green pattern wallpaper in the walls and wooded floor. There is double bed with a wood headboard, the quilt has a flower pattern. Over the bed there is a painting with a field and a mill on it.

There is a window with white ruffled curtains, from where you can see a narrow alley. A candle over the small wood side table next to the bed, and a couple of trunks in front of the bed.

INTERPRETIVE QUESTIONS

- HOW IS KING CHRISTIAN DIFFERENT FROM THE KINGS IN FAIRY TALES?
- WHAT DETAILS IN THE STORY SHOW HOW EVERYDAY LIFE HAS CHANGED BECAUSE OF THE WAR?



LILY L. (WEDNESDAY)

CULTURE CONNECTOR

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

A Connection Between Jewish and Ukrainian Culture

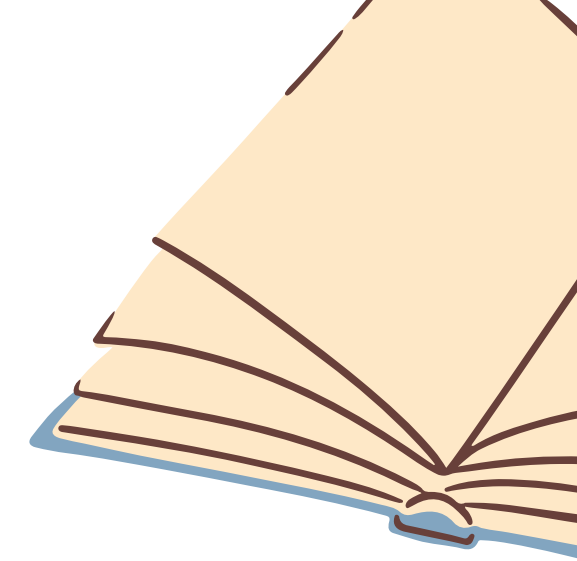
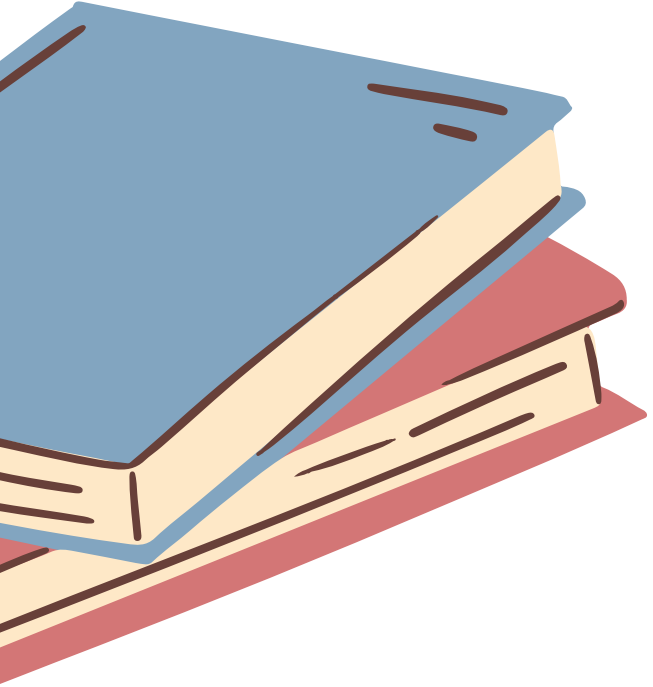
In Chapter 3 of the book, we learn about two Jewish families — the Hirsches and the Rosens. Their culture was attacked and almost destroyed. This is similar to what happened to Ukrainian culture under the Soviet Union. In Nazi Germany, the government tried to erase Jewish culture. In the Soviet Union, the government tried to erase Ukrainian culture. Both wanted to control people by taking away their identity and traditions. A good example is **the song “Shchedryk” by Mykola Leontovych**. It is based on an old Ukrainian New Year’s song. He wrote it in 1916.

In the 1920s, the Soviet government began killing Ukrainian artists, teachers, and thinkers. Leontovych was killed by a Soviet agent in 1921.

In 1922, a Ukrainian choir sang “Shchedryk” in New York City. This saved the song. Later, an American composer with Ukrainian roots Peter Wilhousky, wrote English lyrics. He called it “Carol of the Bells.” Today, it is one of the most famous Christmas songs in the world.

Why It Matters

Most people don’t know that “Carol of the Bells” is really a Ukrainian song. They think it’s just an American Christmas song. It’s important to remember where it came from. This gives credit to Ukraine and shows the strength of its culture. Even when a culture is attacked, its music and traditions can survive and even become part of the world’s culture.



LILY L. (WEDNESDAY)

CULTURE CONNECTOR

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

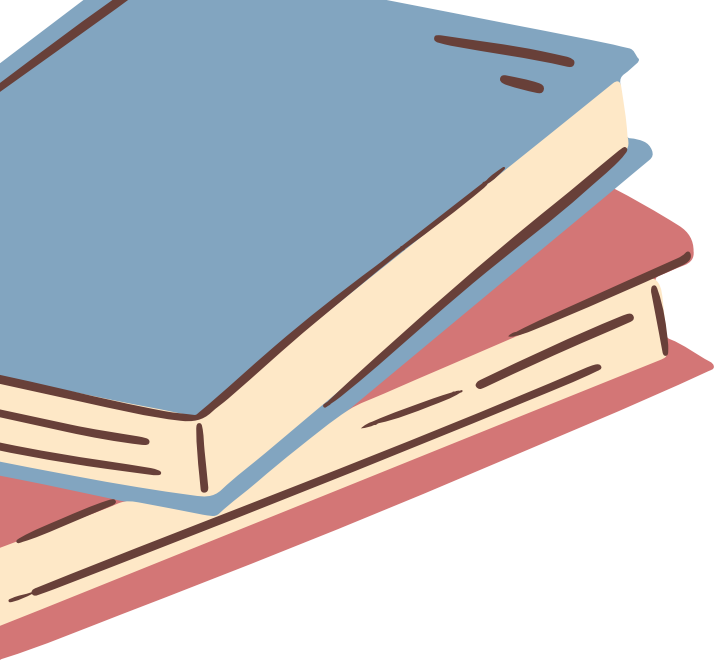
A Connection Between Jewish and Ukrainian Culture (continued)

Home Alone Movie Excerpt, Protecting Home: <https://youtu.be/5Bjh3m9bpZA?si=Oygv6SmiAo24mERl>

Carol of the Bells, Original Ukrainian Version: https://youtu.be/GqeJ38DThVc?si=_1wMsL6l-LnyfV_w

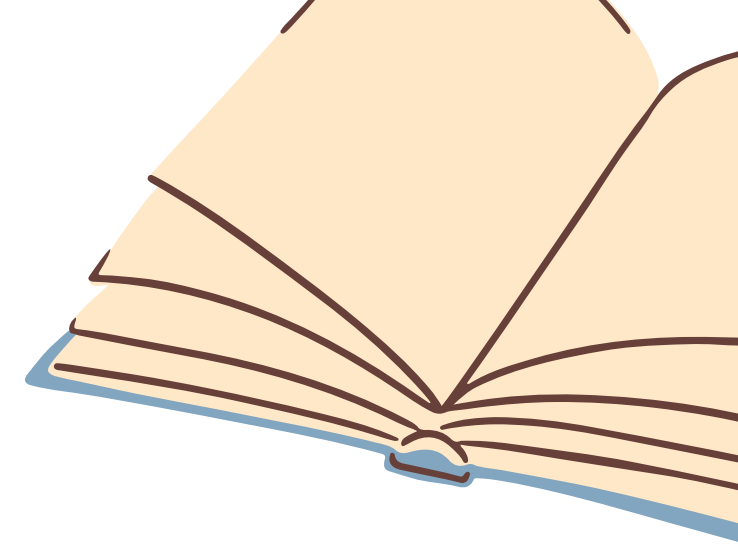
The Untold Story of "Carol of the Bells": <https://youtu.be/jk6GZe15FRY?si=VFI5J1An5QtaZ9T9>

The United States Armed Force Band, tribute: https://youtu.be/ZdSYHUNgitl?si=ZkcndnsEKHsUt_a6



IRA (THURSDAY)

CULTURE CONNECTOR



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

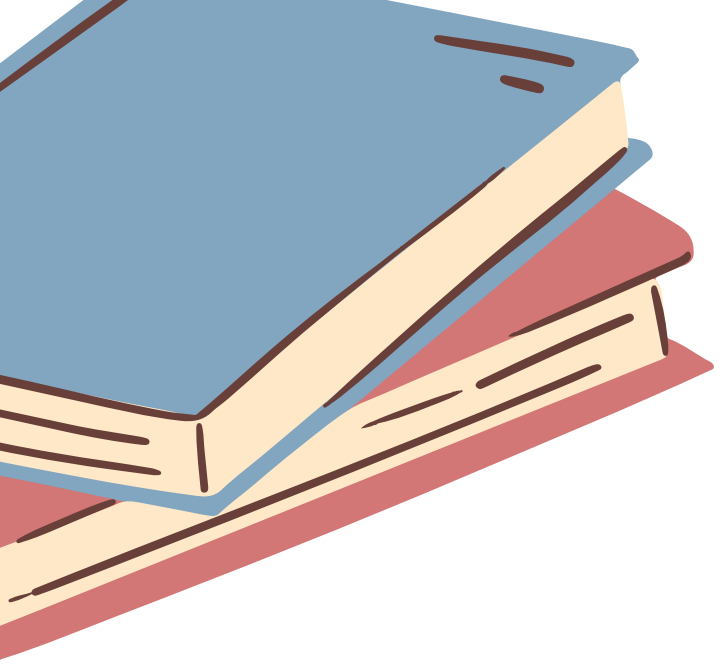
The third chapter talks about how shops owned by Jews are being closed. Peter said: "It's their way to tormenting. For some reason, they want to torment Jewish people". This is an act of **antisemitism**.

I am very concerned that this is happening in America lately, how antisemitism has increased with unprecedented aggression towards Jews. It is depressing that this process is not recognized in the minds of even the most educated people from the Ivy League universities...

Two Israeli Embassy staffers were killed while exiting an event at the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C.

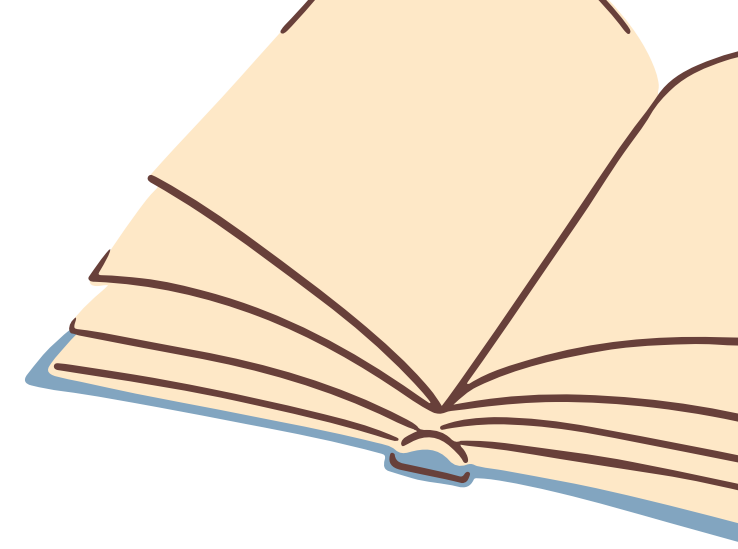
8 people were set on fire during an event calling for the release of Israeli hostages in Gaza, it's happened in Boulder, Colorado.

I find myself thinking that I am afraid that my children might get into at least an unpleasant situation, so I ask them to avoid talking about the fact that they are from Israel.



IRA (THURSDAY)

CULTURE CONNECTOR



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

In the second chapter Kirsti asked from Annemarie told her **fairy tale** and the author wrote that all Danish children grew up familiar with fairy tales and Hans Christian Andersen is the most famous of the tale tellers and Danish himself. I remember that I am too grew up on fairy tales. At first, all the fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen were read to me, and then I read them myself in books with beautiful illustrations. Fairy tales were always a beautiful other "reality" that taught you what is good and what is bad, everything was interesting, beautiful and good always triumphed over evil.

In the third chapter Annemarie was frightened about Peter's being in their home at night, because Copenhagen had a **curfew**, and no citizens were allowed out after 8 o'clock.

Currently my home city Kharkov like lots of cities of Ukraine has a curfew. And I remember how unexpectedly terrifying it was to find that my brother could not help my mother because of the curfew, when she was unable to board a crowded train to Western Ukraine at the station, was cold, felt unwell, had difficulty getting from the platform to the station building and waited until six in the morning for my brother to find her to take her home.

MARIANA (WEDNESDAY)

EMOTIONS EXPLORER

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



Chapter 2: “Who is the Man Who Rides Past?”

I felt admiration and emotional in this chapter. Annemarie remembers happier times before the war. She thinks about King Christian X riding his horse through Copenhagen, unguarded, and how all the people of Denmark loved and respected him.

The books says: “All of Denmark is his bodyguard,” Annemarie had said proudly to her sister.

This line shows me national pride and union – how the people protected their king and, in a way, each other.

There’s a feeling of hope and innocence, but also an underlying fear, because you know dark times are coming.

Chapter 3: “Where is Mrs. Hirsch?”

I felt injustice and sadness in this chapter. They’re introduces the reality of Nazi control in a more personal way. Annemarie and Ellen discover that Mrs. Hirsch’s button shop is closed and her family is gone – simply for being Jewish.

The book says: “It isn’t true. It can’t be. Mrs. Hirsch is our friend! My mother knows her!”

This moment shows me sadness, shock and confusion. The girls are starting to understand how cruel the Nazis are. It brings the injustice of the Holocaust into the girls’ daily lives, making it real and terrifying.

FATEMEH (THURSDAY)

EMOTIONS EXPLORER

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



Reading this story reminded me of the 8 year war between Iran and Iraq. It was very sad. Warplanes, missiles, and large bombs dropped from airplanes on helpless people. What young people were killed defending the country and how many were captured?

We lived in a border town and there were things we did see as children. All the people were grieving for their loved ones.

War brings misery and destruction, and some countries don't understand that they are putting everyone at risk for the sake of power. We spent 8 of the best years of our lives at war. No one knows what happened to the people.

I saw a mother who had lost her child. He was a fisherman. In a war operation the enemy captured him and tied his hands and feet. The fish had eaten them. She swore that she would never touch or eat fish again.

I felt happy about the unity of the people as the enemy was unable to take even an inch of our land. I have hope for world peace and an end to war, so that children will not be left without fathers and mothers, and that mothers and mothers will not lose their children, and women will not be left without husbands and love.

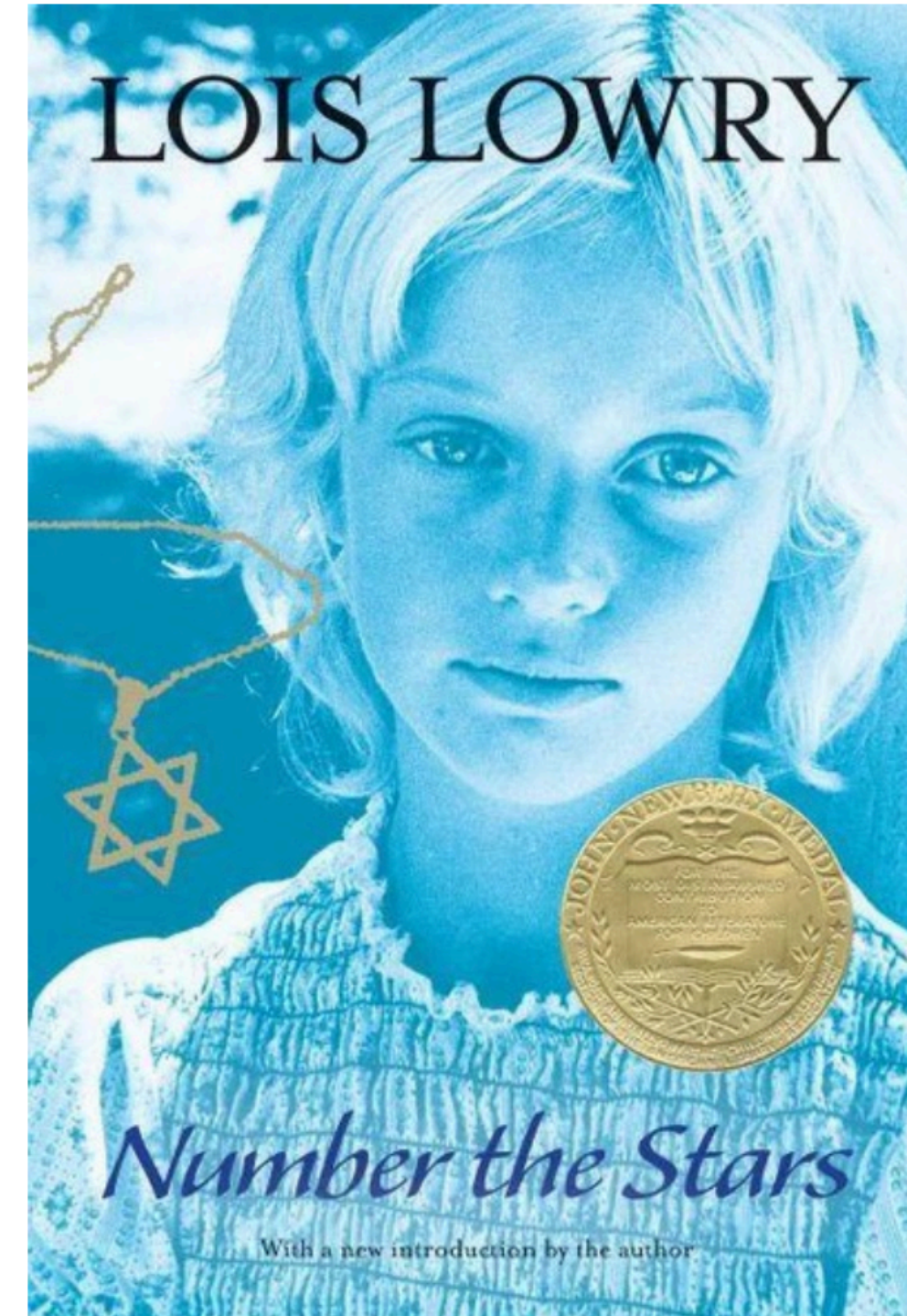
SASHA (WEDNESDAY)

Passage Picker

Chapter 2

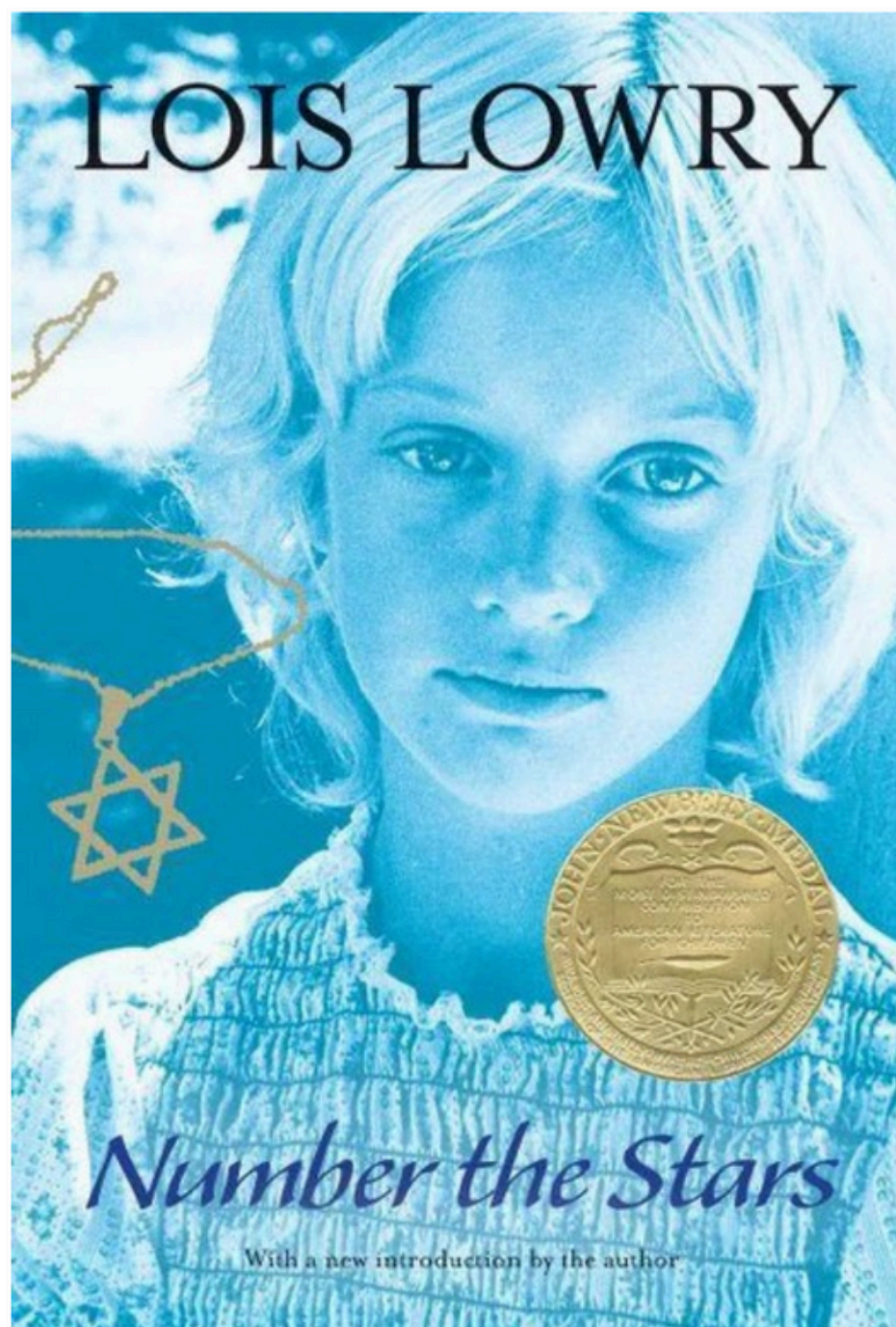
“The whole world had changed. Only the fairy tales remained the same.”

This sentence makes me think about how everything in Annemarie’s life is suddenly different and scary because of the war and the Nazis. But the fairy tale stories she grew up with still bring comfort to her life. It’s like, even though real life is turning upside down, those old stories are the one thing that still feels normal and safe. In my opinion, this sentence shows how confusing and hard things are for kids living through war



SASHA (WEDNESDAY)

Passage Picker



Chapter 3

"I wonder if Mrs. Hirsch is sick."

This might sound like a simple question, but it's actually pretty meaningful. (I think)

But why?

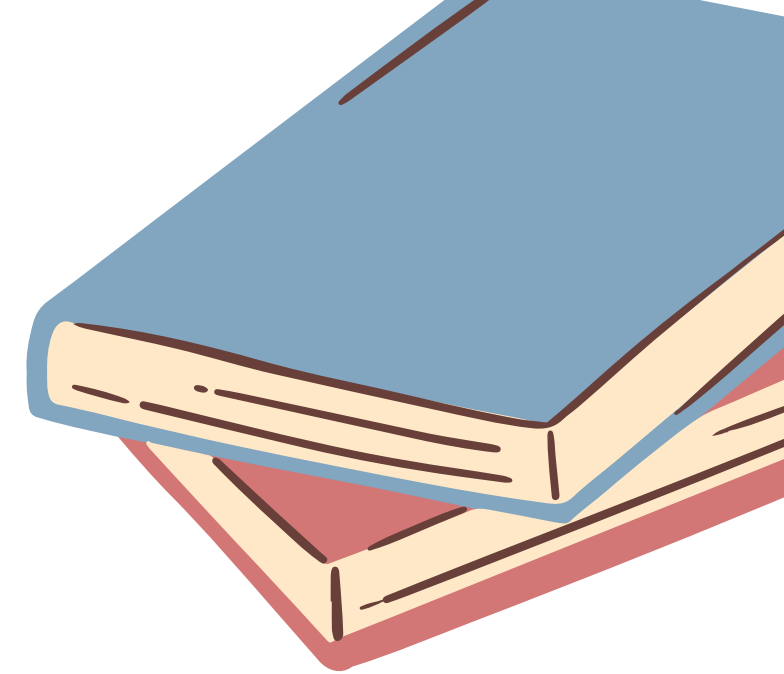
Because Annemarie sees that Mrs. Hirsch's button shop is closed and locked up with a sign in German, but she doesn't understand why. She thinks maybe Mrs. Hirsch is just sick and had to close the shop.

This shows how innocent Annemarie still is. She doesn't yet realize that the Nazis are starting to target Jewish people like Mrs. Hirsch. It's a moment that shows how children didn't always understand what was really happening during the war but they were starting to notice that things weren't right. This is one of the first signs that Annemarie's world is changing



BANU (THURSDAY)

PASSAGE PICKER



“The whole world had changed. Only the fairy tales remained the same”

When I read the sentence, “The whole world had changed. Only the fairy tales remained the same,” I felt something deep inside. This made me think about how fast life can change when something bad happens, like war. For Annemarie, everything around her is not normal anymore — people are scared, and nothing feels safe.

But fairy tales stay the same. They don’t change, even when the world is scary. I think that is why this sentence is strong. It shows how stories can give hope or peace when life is hard. I understand this feeling, because sometimes I also look for something familiar when I feel nervous or afraid.

This part helped me see the story not only with my eyes, but also with my feelings.

LORI GRAMMAR CATCHER

FIND ONE INTERESTING GRAMMAR STRUCTURE OR PATTERN IN THE READING.

USING MODALS (“HELPING” VERBS) TO EXPRESS OBLIGATION, NECESSITY, POSSIBILITY & ADVICE

MODAL + BASE FORM OF VERB

OBLIGATION: “PETER STOOD. ‘I **MUST** GO,’ HE SAID.”

NECESSITY: “‘SOON WE WILL **HAVE TO** ADD ANOTHER BLANKET TO YOUR BED,’ MAMA SAID

POSSIBILITY: “THEY **MIGHT** COME TONIGHT.”

ADVICE: “YOU **SHOULD** STAY HIDDEN.”

PERSONAL CONNECTION

- DID SOMEONE EVER TELL YOU BEDTIME STORIES WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD? WHAT KIND OF STORIES DID YOU LIKE?
- HAVE YOU EVER FELT PROUD TO MEET SOMEONE IMPORTANT OR FAMOUS? HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL?
- WHAT WOULD YOU SAY MAKES A GOOD LEADER? IS IT IMPORTANT FOR LEADERS TO BE CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE?
- DO YOU REMEMBER A TIME WHEN ADULTS AROUND YOU KNEW SOMETHING IMPORTANT BUT DIDN'T TELL THE CHILDREN?
- WHAT SMALL COMFORTS (LIKE CUPCAKES OR HEAT IN WINTER) DO YOU ENJOY NOW, AND HOW WOULD YOUR LIFE CHANGE WITHOUT THEM?



LILY S. (WEDNESDAY)



PREDICTION MAKER

MAKE A THOUGHTFUL PREDICTION ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT.

All Danish children grew up familiar with fairy tales. Those stayed the same, but the world had changed. Anne Marie's stories changed to show the courage of people even though she is afraid what was happening.

We can see in this chapter the courage of Denmark's people, who would die for their wise king to protect to him. Many countries were defeated by an enormous enemy. Anne Marie's father had changed too. He looks very tired, older and surrendered.

I guess in the next chapter something will happen that will prove Anne Marie's bravery to confront the real pain and to endure the danger. This will show that courage and bravery occur in real life and not only in fairy tales.

MONICA (THURSDAY)

PREDICTION MAKER

MAKE A THOUGHTFUL PREDICTION ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT.

The nazi soldiers will start the persecution of the jews and the confiscation of their businesses in Copenhagen.



ESL Book Club Assignments (Chapter Four)

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