

**WELCOME TO ESL GRADUATE STUDIES**

**NUMBER THE STARS  
BOOK CLUB**

**CHAPTERS 12 & 13**

**16 & 17 JULY 2025**

**CAROLINA (WEDNESDAY)**

# **45-SECOND SUMMARY**

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

The next day, Annemarie discovers that her mother has not yet returned from taking the group to the ship. When she looks out the window, she sees her mother lying on the ground. Quickly, she tries to help her inside the house with her injured ankle. On the way, she notices a package on the floor. Her mother becomes worried / anxious / agitated / restless and says that she must take it immediately to Uncle Henrik.

## KARINA (THURSDAY)

# 45-SECOND SUMMARY

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

The Rosens say goodbye to Annemarie and leave the house silently, in complete darkness, lead by Annemarie's mom, who knows the path to the shore. Meanwhile, Henrik waits on the boat for them.

Time passes by and Annemarie falls asleep waiting for her mom. When she wakes up, she realizes her mom has been gone for a long time. Anxiously she looks for her in the house, but she's not there. She looks through the window and sees a shape moving in the dark, she realizes it is her mom, lying on the earth.

Annemarie runs towards her mother, whose ankle is hurt from a fall on her way back. She can't walk. Annemarie helps her mother go inside the house, but she finds in the grass the package that Mr. Rosen drops by accident when he almost **trips** over. The package must be delivered to Henrik so Annemarie's mom asks her to grab a basket with some food and they hide the package in the bottom of the basket. Annemarie's mom asks her to deliver it as fast as she can, before the boat sails. Her mother tells her that she might meet a soldier. If that happens, she reminds her to act normally.

LILY L. (WEDNESDAY)

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

## **Chapter 12: "Where Was Mama?"**

1. What did Annemarie see when she looked out the window?
2. How did Annemarie respond when she saw her mother outside?
3. What was Mama most worried about when Annemarie found her?

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

1. What does Annemarie find by the step where her mother fell?
2. What does Mama instruct Annemarie to do with the packet?
3. How does Annemarie react when the German soldiers stop her?

IRA (THURSDAY)

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What did Annemarie realize when the first hint of a slightly lightening sky woke her?
2. What did Annemarie guess when she peered at something unfamiliar through the dimness of the opening in the trees where the path began?
3. What happened to Mama on the way home when she was in such a hurry and so **eager to** get back to her girls?
4. What did Annemarie notice in the grass at the foot of the steps?

Anxious **about** = worry

"I am anxious about starting school in the fall."

Anxious **to** = looking forward to

"I am anxious to start school in the fall."

Eager to = looking forward to

thrilled = feeling of intense happiness

"I am thrilled to start school in the fall."

## MARIA (WEDNESDAY)

# VOCABULARY BUILDER

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

**Trip:** Catch one's food on something and stumble or fall.  
e.g. He tripped over his cat. **trip** = **vacation (noun)**  
**vacationed (verb)**

**Grasped:** To quickly take something in your hand(s).  
e.g. She grasped his arm. **Grab**

**Regained:** Obtain possession or use or (something) again  
after losing it.  
e.g. Mr. Rosen regained his balance.

**Faltered:** Start to lose strength or momentum.  
e.g. Annemarie faltered for a moment, and then she ran  
quickly to see her mom.

**Sprawling:** Spreading out over a large area in an untidy or  
irregular way.  
e.g., She was sprawled (out) on the floor.

**Hobbled:** Walk in an awkward way, typically because of  
pain from an injury.  
e.g., Mrs. Johansen hobbled because of her pain, but  
Annemarie helped her to walk. **Limp = hobble**

**Stroke:** Move one's hand with gentle pressure (especially  
over hair, fur, or skin) typically repeatedly; caress.  
e.g., He put his hand on her hair and stroked it.

## MARIANA (WEDNESDAY)

# SOUND SPOTTER

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

**stumble** (/STUHM-bəl/)

Sounds like: "STUM-bul"

First syllable strong, second soft. The "b" is clear.

**slight** (/slahyt/)

Sounds like: rhymes with "light" or "tight".

One syllable. Strong "s" and "t".

**yawned** (/YAWN/)

Sounds like: rhymes with "gone".

Long "aw" sound. One syllable.

**slightly** (/SLAHYT-lee/)

Sounds like: "SLITE-lee"

Like "slight" + "lee"

**squinted** (/SKWIN-tid/)

Sounds like: "SKWIN-tid"

Clear "skw" sound at the start.

**winced** (/WINST/)

Sounds like: rhymes with "minced"

One syllable. Strong "n" and "st" sounds.

**clumsy** (/KLUM-zee/)

Sounds like: "KLUM-zee"

First part rhymes with "drum", then "zee".

**wry** (/rahhy/)

Sounds like: rhymes with "cry" or "why"

•One syllable. The "w" is very soft.

FATEMEH (THURSDAY)

# SOUND SPOTTER

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

tripped ⇒	Fattered
whispered	anxious
gawned	sprawling
nodded	faint
gaits	
	gased
stiffly	stricken

**gaped**  
**gassed**  
**guessed**  
**guest**

## ESMERALDA (WEDNESDAY)

# CHARACTER TRACKER

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

**Annemarie** is the daughter of Mr and Ms Johansen who lives in Denmark during the Nazi occupation in World War II. She is Ellen's friend (daughter of the Rosens), sister of Kirsti, and Lise (who died at the age of eighteen, just a few weeks before her wedding). In the story she helps her mother to protect a Jewish family from the Nazis.

### **She represents:**

- a girl who shows deep empathy for the struggles of her Jewish neighbors;
- a strong and courageous person who faces great danger by protecting her friend Ellen, and his mother and father; also more Jewish
- a caring friend who is deeply concerned with protecting her loved ones, even if she have to lie to protect them
- and a helper, gentle, and careful, no matter what is happening around her.

**SASHA (WEDNESDAY)**

# SCENE SETTER

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

## **Chapter 12. Where Was Mama?**

### **Place: The clearing near the woods**

The clearing was quiet and still, with just a bit of moonlight shining down on the grass and bushes. It felt open but somehow more frightening than the trees, it was like stepping out into a place where anything could be watching. The grass was damp and cool underfoot, and the bushes rustled gently in the breeze.

When Annemarie reached the clearing and saw Mama lying there, it felt like everything stopped for a second. The silence was heavy. The shape on the ground, her mother, looked small and far away, even though she was right there. The night air felt colder in that moment, and the shadows seemed longer, darker.

**SASHA (WEDNESDAY)**

# SCENE SETTER

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

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

### **Place: The roadside near the woods**

The little roadside was narrow and lined with bushes and tall grass. The ground was hard but uneven, covered with small stones and dirt. It wasn't far from the edge of the forest, but it felt open and exposed under the cloudy sky.

Mama was lying there, hurt and quiet, and Annemarie felt the cold air brushing against her face as she tried to help. The silence around them was thick, broken only by the soft rustle of leaves and the distant sounds of the village. It was a scary place to be, far from the safety of the house, but Annemarie stayed close, holding her mother's hand, trying to be brave for both.

LILY S. (WEDNESDAY)

# CULTURE CONNECTOR

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

**Chapter 12 , page 12.**

“Starting a new day with the sun shining through the kitchen window and cream on their oatmeal”.

This paragraph takes me back to happy moments of my childhood, when my siblings and I lived with my grandparents’ house in a small village. At dawn with the first rays of sun, my sweet grandmother was waiting for us in the kitchen with freshly brewed milk and plantain’s porridge.

LILY S. (WEDNESDAY)

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MONICA (THURSDAY)

# CULTURE CONNECTOR

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

In chapter 12, Mrs. Johansen takes the Rosens to her brother's fishing boat. They are wearing thick jackets and taking food for their journey. They **leave** the country because they have no other choice. They say farewell to their friends and hope to meet them again in better circumstances.

Immigrants are forced by extreme poverty, violence, and crime to leave their countries of origin in **pursuit** of a better life in the U.S. Illegal immigrants crossing from Mexico risk their lives crossing the border and circumventing the security checkpoints to avoid being detained. They are afraid, and many are exploited, robbed, or assaulted. The **extreme weather conditions** in the desert **make** them vulnerable to die because of dehydration or heat **stroke**.

ARSENIA (WEDNESDAY)

# EMOTIONS EXPLORER

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

One moment that made me feel a deep mix of **grief, nostalgia,** and **sorrow** was Chapter 8 of “Number the Stars”, titled “There Has Been a Death” until the current chapter. In those chapters, Annemarie is forced to leave her childhood behind. Despite her parents’ efforts to protect her and her little sister, the political and social circumstances push her to grow up too fast. She can’t talk openly about it—not with her best friend, not with Kirstie, not even with her parents. So she silently begins to realize that she’s no longer a child. **That quiet disillusionment really moved me.**

FLAVIA (THURSDAY)

# PREDICTION MAKER

MAKE A THOUGHTFUL PREDICTION ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT.

As a lover of fairy tales with happy endings, I'm truly hoping that the Rosen family manages to escape and stay safe from Nazi persecution. In my continuation of the story, Annemarie manages to arrive just in time to deliver the package that Peter had given to Mr. Rosen to take to Uncle Henrik. It's the package he dropped from his pocket when he tripped on the stairs before leaving.

To add a bit of suspense and excitement, Annemarie is stopped by soldiers along the way, who ask where she's going alone at that hour. Smart and quick-thinking, she pretends to be calm, following her mother's advice, and manages to get past them. **She** reaches her destination just in time and **gives the package to Uncle Henrik**, who then sets off with the Rosen family on their journey to safety.

## ESL Book Club Assignments (Chapters Fourteen and Fifteen)

Student:	Responsibility:	
<b>Marisela / Flavia</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>Carolina / Karina</b>	<b>Comprehension Quizzer:</b>	Create a brief (3-5 question) quiz to test reading comprehension.
	➤ Skills practiced: reading for detail, forming questions	
<b>Lily L. / Ira</b>	<b>Vocabulary Builder:</b>	Choose 3–5 important or interesting words from the reading.
	➤ Skills practiced: vocabulary acquisition, context clues, paraphrasing	
<b>Maria / Ana</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>Mariana / Fatemeh</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>Sasha / Banu</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>Lily S. / Monica</b>	<b>Character Tracker:</b>	Describe one character’s traits or actions in the reading.
	➤ Skills practiced: character analysis, using descriptive language	
<b>Esmeralda / Erika</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>Arsenia / Auricelia</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>Cristy / Stefanie</b>	<b>Prediction Maker:</b>	Make a thoughtful prediction about what might happen next.
	➤ Skills practiced: inferencing, using evidence from text	