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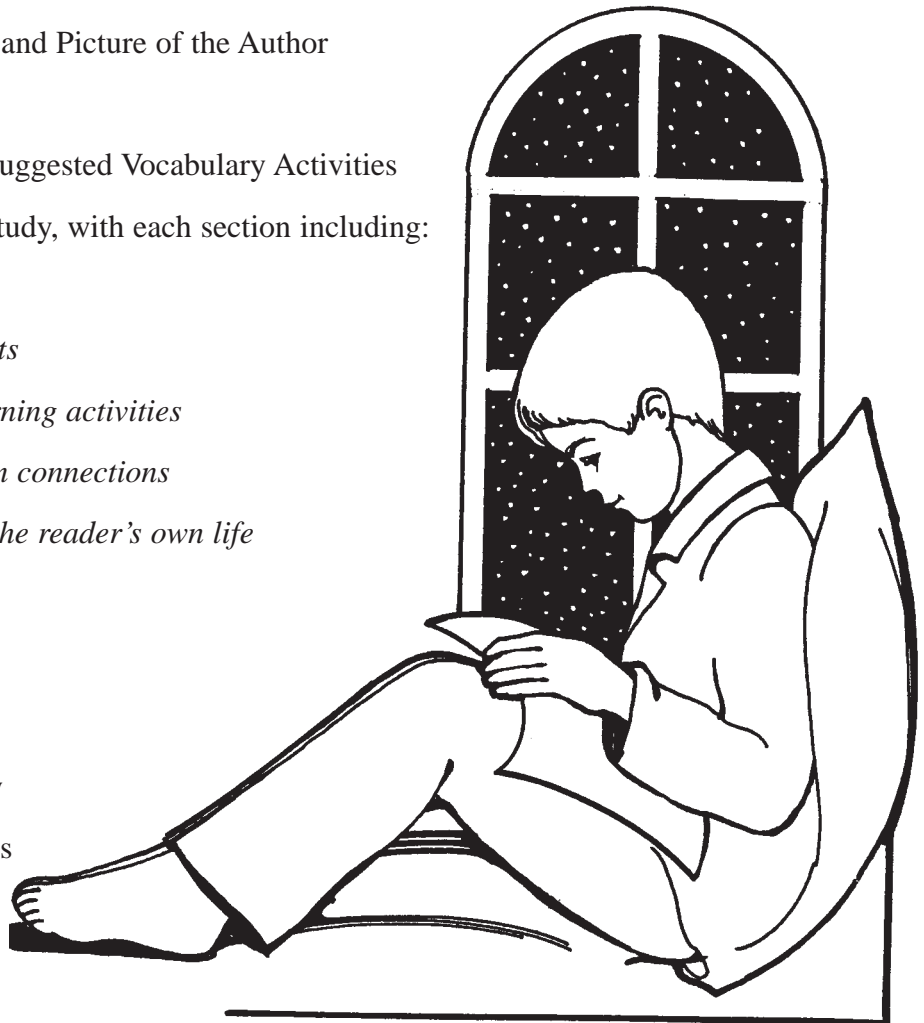
Introduction

A good book can touch our lives like a good friend. Within its pages are words and characters that can inspire us to achieve our highest ideals. We can turn to it for companionship, recreation, comfort and guidance. It also gives us a cherished story to hold in our hearts forever.

In *Literature Units*, great care has been taken to select books that are sure to become good friends!

Teachers who use this literature unit will find the following features to supplement their own valuable ideas.

- Sample Lesson Plans
- Pre-reading Activities
- A Biographical Sketch and Picture of the Author
- A Book Summary
- Vocabulary Lists and Suggested Vocabulary Activities
- Chapters grouped for study, with each section including:
 - *quizzes*
 - *hands-on projects*
 - *cooperative learning activities*
 - *cross-curriculum connections*
 - *extensions into the reader's own life*
- Post-reading Activities
- Book Report Ideas
- Research Ideas
- A Culminating Activity
- Three Unit Test Options
- A Bibliography
- An Answer Key



We are confident that this unit will be a valuable addition to your planning and hope that, as you use our ideas, your students will increase the circle of 'friends' that they have in books!

Number the Stars

by **Lois Lowry**

(Dell, 1989)

(Available from Transworld Publishers)

Annemarie Johansen and her best friend, Ellen Rosen, are racing home from school when they are stopped by German soldiers on the corner. The girls think this is just another inconvenience that they need to contend with since the occupation of Denmark by the Nazis. However, they do not realise that soldiers on street corners and rationed food are only the beginning of their trials.

Since Annemarie and her family are Protestant they are safe, but Ellen's family is Jewish. When the Rosens get word that they are about to be relocated, they decide to find a way to escape. The Johansens agree to allow Ellen to live with them temporarily and the girls embark on an adventure designed to save Ellen's life.

Mrs Johansen's brother, Henrik, owns a fishing boat, which he normally uses to earn his living. During the Nazi occupation, he also uses it to help smuggle Jews out of Denmark into Sweden. However, he finds that his efforts are being thwarted by German soldiers who realise that Jews are escaping and begin to suspect the local fishermen.

Annemarie discovers that once the Rosens are aboard the fishing boat, her Uncle Henrik is missing a secret packet that he needs in order to make the journey successful. In spite of her fear, Annemarie knows that she must deliver the packet. She is stopped by German soldiers while on her way to the boat and narrowly escapes with the packet hidden in Uncle Henrik's lunch.

The mysterious item hidden in the packet and the historical relevance of it are not revealed until the very end of the book. Annemarie discovers that she has played a major part in saving Ellen's life, and that bravery is thinking about what needs to be done, not about how frightened she is.

