

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 1



Key Paragraph – Pages 8-9

“‘They will remember your faces,’ Mrs. Rosen said, turning in the doorway to the hall. ‘It is important to be one of the crowd, always. Be one of many. Be sure that they never have reason to remember your face.’ She disappeared into the hall and closed the door behind her.”

Writing Task

Mrs. Rosen is concerned that the soldiers might remember the children’s faces.

Write a paragraph that argues for the importance of blending in with the crowd in dangerous situations. Use information from the novel and an example from your own life when you avoided being singled out from the group.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 2



Key Paragraph – Page 12

“King Christian was a real human being, a man with a serious, kind face. She had seen him often, when she was younger. Each morning, he had come from the palace on his horse, Jubilee, and ridden alone through the streets of Copenhagen, greeting his people.”

Writing Task

King Christian treated people in a way that was fair and just. He showed his people that he felt each one of them had worth and a right to respect by greeting them daily. The people of Denmark returned that kindness with admiration and respect for their king.

Write an argumentative paragraph that supports the argument that a person’s life can be changed and/or enriched through the kindness or compassion of another.

Explain your position and support it with facts that should include:

A person or persons you know who, like King Christian, have touched your life in a special way.

A description of the person’s traits, especially as they show kindness or compassion.

Examples about how he/she treats you and others.

The impact the person has had on your life or on other lives.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 3



Key Paragraph – Page 24

“Then Annemarie thought of something else. ‘If they can’t sell their buttons, how will they earn a living?’

‘Friends will take care of them,’ Mama said gently. ‘That’s what friends do.’

Annemarie nodded. Mama was right, of course. Friends and neighbors would go to the home of the Hirsch family, would take them fish and potatoes and bread and herbs for making tea. Maybe Peter would even take them a beer. They would be comfortable until their shop was allowed to open again.”

Writing Task

Write an argumentative paragraph supporting the following statement: the Jewish people are being treated unfairly by the German soldiers.

Include:

Evidence from the book regarding the Hirsch family.

Support your ideas by including the reaction of the Danish people to the treatment of the Jews.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 4



Key Paragraph – page 37

“I really don’t think anyone will. But it never hurts to be prepared. If anyone should come, even soldiers, you two will be sisters. You are together so much, it will be easy for you to pretend that you are sisters.”

Writing Task

Most of us have pretended to be someone else when we were younger. Tell about a time when you tried to take on a new identity. What was the situation and who did you pretend to be? Were you able to convince others, and was it easy or difficult for you?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 5



Key Paragraph – Page 45

“Hold still,” Annemarie commanded. ‘This will hurt.’ She grabbed the little gold chain, yanked with all her strength, and broke it. As the door opened and light flooded into the bedroom, she crumpled it into her hand and closed her fingers tightly.”

Writing Task

Annemarie acted quickly under pressure, yanking Ellen’s necklace off just before the soldiers entered the bedroom. Write an argumentative paragraph that supports the idea that there are times when acting quickly can be more beneficial than careful planning or taking time to make a decision.

The paragraph should include examples(s) from the novel, from your life, and/or from research into history or the news.

Explain the situations and argue for acting quickly.

Describe what may have happened if the actions had not been quick.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 6



Key Paragraph – Pages 51

“‘Not go to school?’ Ellen asked in amazement. ‘My parents have always told me that education is the most important thing. Whatever happens, I must get an education.’”

Writing Task

Ellen’s parents have told Ellen that education is extremely important. Even with the war going on and the dangers they face, they want Ellen to remember to get an education.

Write a paragraph that argues for the benefits of education.

Be sure to include why you think it is important and any examples that show the benefits of obtaining an education.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 7



Key Paragraph – Page 64

“Ellen touched her neck after she had put on Annemarie’s flower-sprigged nightgown, which Mama had packed.

‘Where is my necklace?’ she asked. ‘What did you do with it?’

‘I hid it in a safe place,’ Annemarie told her. ‘A very secret place where no one will ever find it. And I will keep it there for you until it is safe for you to wear it again.’”

Writing Task

Most of us have a special item that means a great deal to us. Ellen had the necklace her father had given her when she was very small. Annemarie knew it meant a great deal to her, so she was keeping it in a safe place.

Write a paragraph that argues for the importance of special items in people’s lives. Special items may help people through difficult times or may help them to remember people they love.

Use information from the novel and your own life experiences to support your argument.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 8



Key Paragraph – Page 77

“‘You guessed correctly,’ he told her. ‘There is no Great-aunt Birte, and never has been. Your Mama lied to you, and so did I.’

‘We did so,’ he explained, ‘to help you to be brave, because we love you. Will you forgive us for that?’”

Writing Task

We are taught from a very early age that lying is wrong. However, there may be circumstances when it is acceptable.

Write an argumentative paragraph to support the idea that there are times and situations when a lie may be acceptable.

Cite examples from the novel (remember there are several lies being told – Ellen’s identity, Great-aunt Birte’s death, etc.) and any from your life or the news to support your position. Be sure to cite the circumstances that made the lie acceptable.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 9



Key Paragraph – page 83

“She heard - as if in a recurring nightmare - the pounding on the door, then the heavy, frighteningly familiar staccato of boots on the kitchen floor. The woman with the baby gasped and began, suddenly, to weep.”

Writing Task

The Nazis visit the group of mourners. They are suspicious about the large gathering of people, and they come close to opening the casket.

Write a paragraph that argues either for or against the plan to help the Jewish families.

Do you think the plan was wise or were there too many risks?

Be sure to think about any other options that might be available to get the Jewish people out of Denmark.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 10



Key Paragraph – Page 90

“Peter’s voice was firm. ‘We can’t take the chance,’ he said. He inserted the dropper of the bottle into the baby’s tiny mouth, and squeezed a few drops of liquid on her tongue. The baby yawned, and swallowed. The mother closed her eyes; her husband gripped her shoulder.”

Writing Task

Despite the protests of the baby’s mother, Peter gives medicine to a small baby so she will not cry. For such a small baby the medicine has the risk of putting the baby to sleep permanently. Write a paragraph that argues for or against Peter’s position that the risk to the baby is outweighed by the risk a baby’s cry might be to all the travelers.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 11



Key Paragraph – Pages 98

“It was harder for the ones who were waiting, Annemarie knew. Less danger, perhaps, but more fear.”

Writing Task

As Annemarie waits for her mother’s safe return, she worries about her. She also thinks about her father watching the clock and waiting to hear that the Rosens are safe. Annemarie reflects that those who wait may be in less danger, but may be even more fearful?

Write an argumentative paragraph either for or against the idea that those who wait have to deal with more fear than those who are actually involved in the dangerous situation.

Include details from the novel and any situations you have experienced or can cite to support your position.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 12



Key Paragraph – Page 111

“Annemarie continued the story in her head. ‘Suddenly, as Little Red Riding-Hood walked through the woods, she heard a noise. She heard a rustling in the bushes.’”

Writing Task

Annemarie hurried through the dark woods. She heard noises and was a bit frightened. To keep herself going she told herself the story of Little Red Riding-Hood.

Write a paragraph arguing that in strange and frightening situations it can help to talk to yourself (called self talk) or even tell yourself a story as Annemarie did.

Be sure to include specific situations as examples.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 13



Key Paragraph – Page 117

What would Kirsti do? Annemarie stamped her foot. Suddenly, to her own surprise she began to cry. “I don’t know!” she said, her voice choked. “My mother’s going to be angry that you stopped me and made me late. And you’ve completely ruined Uncle Henrik’s lunch, so now *he’ll* be mad at me too.”

Writing Task

When Annemarie was stopped and questioned by the German soldiers, she did several things to fool the soldiers into thinking she was on a normal errand.

Write a paragraph that argues that Annemarie’s actions and words helped fool the soldiers and made them less suspicious. Note that acting courageous and confrontational may not have helped.

Include:

Examples of Annemarie’s actions from the story.

At least one quotation from Annemarie or a soldier that helps support your point.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Number The Stars, Day 14



Key Paragraph – page 122-123

“Brave?” Annemarie asked, surprised. “No, I wasn’t. I was very frightened.”

“You risked your life.”

“But I didn’t even think about that! I was only thinking of -”

He interrupted her, smiling. “That’s all that brave means - not thinking about the dangers. Just thinking about what you must do. Of course you were frightened. I was too, today. But you kept your mind on what you had to do. So did I. Now let me tell you about the Rosens.”

Writing Task

When Annemarie discovered the package by the steps, and remembered that Peter stressed it was of great importance that Mr. Rosen deliver the package to Henrik, she knew what she had to do. Annemarie was not a superhero, but an ordinary person performing an act of bravery.

Write an argumentative paragraph in which you argue that in certain situations even ordinary people can be brave (even frightened children).

Include:

Your definition of what it means to be brave.

Reasons why ordinary people may act with bravery.

Examples from the book or from other sources, including print and digital sources.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt Number The Stars, Day 15



Key Paragraph – Page 128

“Churchbells rang all over Copenhagen, early that May evening. The Danish flag was raised everywhere. People stood in the streets and wept as they sang the national anthem of Denmark.”

Writing Task

The war was over. Denmark was free. The Danish people had rescued most of the Danish Jews. Write an essay that argues for the importance of respecting the rights of all people. Review the theme of the unit, Justice Requires Restraint. Think about the lessons you learned from the book. Cite examples from the book and from other print and digital sources