



Lesson Plan Aid for Book Punch® - Number the Stars

Grade level 4
Lexile Framework for Reading Measure 670L

Table of Contents

Introduction to Book Punch®	1
Printables	1
Text-to-Self.....	2
Evidence and Inference	3
Reading Check.....	4
Curriculum Integration.....	5
<i>Vocabulary</i>	5
<i>Character Exploration</i>	6
<i>Group Work and Discussion - Pre-writing</i>	6
<i>Additional Writing Prompts</i>	6
Printable Worksheet Links	7

Introduction to Book Punch®

Book Punch guides students through the steps of thinking and writing about well-known core literature for grade levels 3 through 9. Students write paragraphs or essays responding to interactive writing prompts. The program tutors students to develop ideas and organize their thinking about books they read.

Each program in the Merit Book Punch collection focuses on one book title. Each contains 6-7 writing prompts, 600 supporting questions and 600 helpful tips to guide students through each step in the writing process. The program for each book title comprises 3 online interactive units as follows:

- Text-to-Self: Based on themes from the book, students write paragraphs about their own experiences.
- Evidence and Inference: Students write paragraphs or essays that connect details with ideas in the book to infer a deeper meaning from what they are reading.
- Reading Check: Students write a paragraph about facts and/or events from the book to ensure that they have read it.

Together, these units develop students' reading comprehension and writing skills in complementary ways.

Printables

Each Book Punch title includes 11 printable worksheets, a lesson plan aid, and the Book Punch® Series Manual with detailed instructions for implementation. The documents can be viewed and printed from My Learning Center. Self-learners and teachers click the course name; tutors and parents click the Programs link and then click the Book Punch title.

All printables can also be viewed and printed from the links provided on the last page of this document.

Text-to-Self

Text-to-Self writing prompts help to enrich students' reading experience. Students write paragraphs that help them relate their own experiences to events that take place in the book. See the topics listed below.

Text-to-Self Topic 1

During the dreadful time of the German occupation of Denmark, familiar, comfortable activities create a feeling of normalcy. In the story, Kirsti begs Annemarie for a fairy tale story. When Annemarie tells the story, it evokes a feeling of life as it should be. Think about a story you love that brings you good memories or is comforting. Write about a story that you love.

Text-to-Self Topic 2

In the story, Annemarie takes Ellen's Star of David and hides it for safekeeping. The necklace is important to Ellen because it was given to her by her papa and because it is a symbol of her faith. Write about a special item that you own and what it represents to you.

Text-to-Self Topic 3

In the story, Annemarie is upset because her mother and Uncle Henrik have lied to her about Great-aunt Birte. Uncle Henrik tells Annemarie that they lied to protect her and make it easy for her to be brave. Annemarie's acts of bravery in the book are related to matters of life and death. While most of us will not be put into such dangerous situations, we have all had to be brave at some point in our lives. Write about a time you were brave.

Evidence and Inference

See the writing prompts below and the accompanying list of questions, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph. Help students determine whether they have recognized (inferred) the ideas in the book from the details (evidence) given.

Evidence and Inference Topic 1

The effects of war on a population's everyday life are far-reaching. Write a paragraph describing the ways in which the German occupation during World War II affected the lives of the Danish people.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 2.)

1. What items were not available to the Danes during the German occupation?
2. How were living conditions affected by the shortages?
3. Why were the Danish people unable to acquire many things after the Germans occupied their country?
4. Why did the people of Denmark live in fear during the German occupation?

Evidence and Inference Topic 2

It is difficult to imagine how we might react to a dangerous situation. Write a paragraph describing how the Johansens respond when their Jewish friends are threatened.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 21.)

1. What does the rabbi of the Rosens' synagogue tell his congregation? What does it mean to the Jews of Denmark?
2. How do the Johansens help Ellen by inviting her to sleep in their home?
3. Why are the Germans who come to the Johansens' home suspicious of Ellen?
4. How does Father fool the Germans when they question him about Ellen?

Evidence and Inference Topic 3

Bravery is the willingness to do what is necessary in spite of being afraid. Write a paragraph describing Annemarie's journey to deliver the package to Uncle Henrik.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read the entire book.)

1. Why can't Mama deliver the important package to Uncle Henrik?
2. Why does Annemarie volunteer to take the package to Uncle Henrik?
3. How does Mama hide the package and what does she tell Annemarie to do if she is stopped by soldiers?
4. What is in the package and why is it so important?

Reading Check

The Reading Check unit evaluates students' paragraphs using a key point check to determine if the student has read the book. See the Reading Check writing prompt below and the list of questions that accompany it, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph.

Reading Check Topic

In "Number the Stars," Annemarie Johansen is very brave in spite of the dangers she and her family face by helping their Jewish friends escape from the Germans. Annemarie's family helps her to be brave by telling her some information after danger has past. This helps Annemarie be less afraid and to appear calm and innocent to the German soldiers. Write a paragraph giving examples of information that Annemarie Johansen's family keeps from her in order to protect her. Be specific and include examples from the story.

1. At Great-aunt Birte's wake Annemarie's mother does not tell her what is really in the coffin until the German soldiers leave the wake. What is in the coffin and who will use it?
2. Mrs. Johansen tells Annemarie to quickly bring Uncle Henrik a packet that she has placed in a lunch basket. She does not tell Annemarie what is in the packet. After the danger has past Henrik explains how the contents of the packet relate to trained dogs. What is in the packet and how does its contents relate to dogs?
3. The Johansens do not tell Annemarie where the Rosens are until everyone is out of danger. Thus, when Annemarie delivers the packet to Henrik she is not aware of where the Rosens are. Where are they?
4. Annemarie's parents do not tell her the truth about how her sister, Lise, died until after the war. How did Lise die?

Curriculum Integration

See the Book Punch Series Manual. The Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary section and the Beyond the Program section provide detailed instructions for implementing vocabulary, character and pre-writing lessons. The Book Punch Series Manual includes printable worksheets for these lessons.

Vocabulary

See the Vocabulary Exploration worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Thematic words from Number the Stars that can be explored include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
courage	The strength to withstand danger, fear, or difficulty
determination	Firm or fixed intention
integrity	Total honesty or sincerity
Nazi	The brutal German regime led by Adolph Hitler from 1933 to 1945
occupation	The holding and control of a country by another country

Vocabulary particular to the time and setting of Number the Stars include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
ration	To restrict the use of a food or service, usually in war time
Resistance	A secret organization in an occupied country, which conducts sabotage against the occupier.
sabotage	A destructive action to hinder a nation's war effort
casket	Coffin
congregation	The membership of a place of worship
disdain	A feeling of contempt for someone or something
glower	To stare angrily
haughty	Acting as if other people are not as good as oneself
hearse	Vehicle for carrying the dead to the grave
impassive	Not feeling or showing emotion
mourn	To feel or show grief or sorrow
permeate	To spread through
protrude	To stick out
Star of David	Six-pointed star used to symbolize Judaism (3 words)

The Word Search Puzzle and Crossword Puzzle worksheets that are included contain many of the words above. They can be used to reinforce the vocabulary in the book.

Character Exploration

See the Character Exploration worksheet and the Compare and Contrast worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here are suggested character exploration prompts for classroom discussion:

Imagine that Annemarie is your friend in real life. Write words and phrases that would help you describe her to someone who doesn't know her. (What does Annemarie look like? What kind of personality does she have? What does she like to do?)

Compare and contrast Annemarie with Ellen or another character in the book.

Group Work and Discussion - Pre-writing

See the Brainstorming worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here is a suggested topic for classroom discussion:

An important theme of "Number the Stars" is the willingness of people to pull together to help others. We learn how the citizens of Denmark and Sweden worked together to help protect the Jewish population during World War II. Write a paragraph describing ways in which the Danes and Swedes helped the Jews during this time.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read the entire book.)

Additional Writing Prompts

See the Independent Follow-up worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Using the context of Number the Stars, and the Independent Follow-up worksheet, students may continue the writing process after publishing their paragraphs from Book Punch. Here are two additional topics students can write about:

Quick thinking and the ability to be flexible are important life skills. Write a paragraph describing the scene in Uncle Henrik's home when the German's arrive to find out what is going on and how Mama's quick thinking gets them all out of danger.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 12.)

In the story, Annemarie has to make the journey to Uncle Henrik with an important package. She must go while it is still dark and there is a danger of being caught by the German soldiers who patrol Denmark. It was indeed a frightening journey. Think about a scary journey you made. Write a paragraph about a scary journey you had to take.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 19.)

Printable Worksheet Links

You must be connected to the Internet to access these links.

[Crossword Puzzle - starter](#)

[Crossword Puzzle - challenge](#)

[Word Search Puzzle](#)

[Evidence and Inference Worksheet](#)

[See the Book Punch® Series Manual for additional printable worksheets.](#)

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