



Number the Stars (1989), by Lois Lowry Debatable Issues

Debatable Issue #1

In Chapter 9, Uncle Henrik tells Annemarie, “It is much *easier* to be brave if you do not know everything.” Annemarie expresses some confusion in response to this statement: “What did bravery mean?” Does the novel uphold Uncle Henrik’s understanding of bravery – that not knowing the risks involved can make someone more brave – or does the novel support a more common understanding, that someone can only be as brave as their willingness to *knowingly* put themselves at risk for some purpose or cause?

Debatable Issue #2

Number the Stars shows characters, such as members of Annemarie’s family and even Annemarie herself, putting their lives in danger, to some extent, in order to try to protect the lives of others. Do you agree with the novel’s implied message that people have a moral obligation to risk their own safety to protect friends and even strangers when they are in danger?

Debatable Issue #3

Is your neighborhood one in which people care enough about others that they are willing to make significant sacrifices to protect them? Is your city this way? Your country?