

Monday, May 13, 2024

Dear Incoming 5<sup>th</sup> Graders and Families,

I am very much looking forward to beginning a new year together in August. This past year, I have gotten to know the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class a little better during our time together at recess, lunch, and Wellness Wednesdays. I have heard all of the wonderful things about this class shared by Mr. Park, and I am excited to get to know you, and your families, even better in the upcoming school year.

This month, I am finishing my fifth year at Topeka Collegiate. It has been a fantastic experience, and I am looking forward to creating many more memories here. Before my three years here, I taught for 9 years in USD 501, in both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. I have two boys, both who will be at Shawnee Heights High School. Aiden, who will be a senior, and Remy, who will be a freshman. My husband, Dan, and I will celebrate our one-year anniversary in June. In my free time, I teach Jazzercise, which I love, and when I can squeeze in a few moments of quiet, I also love to read. Lately I have been taking advantage of the "in-between" free moments with audio books.

Next year, we have many fun experiences that await us; including trips to a Topeka Symphony performance, STARBASE, and Brown v Board of Education. We also have our class assembly, Greek Fashion Show, and several book projects. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, we will build on all of the organizational and academic skills that Mr. Park taught throughout 4<sup>th</sup> grade. My goal for 5<sup>th</sup> grade is that students become independent learners, take ownership of their time, learning, and work while at school. I encourage, and expect, students to take responsibility for their actions and materials, organize their assignments, and individually excel in their learning. As the 4<sup>th</sup> graders already know, I also expect everyone to treat each other with kindness and respect at all times. We will have multiple conversations during the year about maintaining a growth mindset during our time in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I am passionate about encouraging the "getting back up," and that making mistakes is okay, and that we can grow because of them.

Attached to this letter are the 5<sup>th</sup> grade summer learning assignments. Students will have reading, writing, and social studies activities, along with some math options. Please encourage your child to read and write as much as they can during the summer months. I am looking forward to hearing all about the books your child reads this summer, and spending time together next year in 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

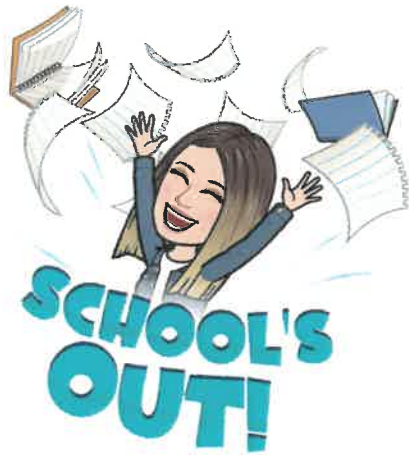
Sincerely,

Mrs. Kopshinsky



**Summer Enrichment Packet**  
Topeka Collegiate School  
Fifth Grade

Mrs. Kopshinsky



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Incoming Fifth Grader:

Yay! Summer break is here! While summer is MOSTLY about you and your family, AND about having fun (I definitely want you to spend AS MUCH TIME as you can having fun!), it is also a time to prepare for the upcoming school year. In order to be ready for 5th grade in August, there are certain things I would like for you to accomplish.

### **Reading/Writing**

1. **READ AS MUCH AS YOU CAN!** Reading will help keep your mind active and ensure that you are ready for the beginning of your fifth grade year. Books (fiction and nonfiction), magazines, newspapers - even reading recipes when you help out in the kitchen - will help you.
2. Write a friendly letter to Mrs. Kopshinsky. Introduce yourself to me and tell me all about your summer! Details for this are included near the end of the packet.
  - a. **Assignment**: friendly letter
    - i. Include:
      1. A heading (*date on the top left*)
      2. A greeting (*Dear Mrs. Kopshinsky,*)
      3. The body (*main part*) of the letter should include:
        - a. An introduction that tells me, as the reader, information all about who you are
        - b. How you spent your summer. (*Tell me your top 3 favorite activities*).
        - c. What you are most looking forward to about 5th grade.
        - d. What you are most worried about for 5th grade.
        - e. Any questions you may have for me.
      4. A closing (*Sincerely, your name*)
      5. Include a postscript (*P.S.*) after the closing, at the end of the letter, and tell me which book of the three that you read was your favorite and why.

**3. You are required to read three books this summer:**

→ *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

- ◆ I know a few of you let me know that you have already read this..that's fantastic! I would still like you to reread it this summer so that it is fresh in your mind when we return to school. Don't worry, it's one of my favorites, and I plan to reread it, too!
- ◆ Assignment -- *Number the Stars* Comprehension Questions
  - I recommend filling this out as you read, and not waiting until the end. :)

→ Select one book that is a nominee for the William A. White Children's Book Award. *(I included both 3rd - 5th nominees and 6th - 8th nominees with this packet. The link to the digital list is below. You may pick one from either list, but please select a book you are interested in, AND that is appropriate for your reading level.)*

- ◆ <https://wawchildrensbookaward.com/>
- ◆ Assignment -- Summary Sheet

→ Select a book of YOUR choice. Something you are interested in, and is appropriate for your level of reading. *(If you are unsure, check with your parents. Parents, you are welcome to look up any title online to see if it would be an age/grade appropriate text.)*

- ◆ Assignment -- Complete the Book Review assignment about the book you selected. *(If you do not have enough room to write what the book is about in the green box, you may write more details on the back or on a separate sheet of paper.)*

## **Math**

The most important skill you need to bring to fifth grade is a solid understanding of basic multiplication facts. A strong knowledge of basic facts will help form the building blocks for higher-level math concepts. When you master your math facts, multi-step concepts will be significantly easier, AND you will be able to solve problems more quickly. Basic multiplication facts will carry over to almost every area of math we will be studying in fifth grade.

→ Assignment -- Practice your basic facts. There are several ways to do this. You can make your own flash cards, post sticky notes around the house, roll dice and find the product of the two numbers rolled, use a deck of playing cards and play the card game War or create a "memory" card game using the multiplication facts. There are also plenty of iPad/tablet/phone apps available and multiple websites you can use to practice. I've listed a few below. (Note: when practicing facts, you really do not need to practice for longer than 5 - 10 minutes at a time.)

◆ iPad/Tablet Apps:

- ★ *Mathmateer*
- ★ *Sushi Monster*
- ★ *Thinking Blocks Multiplication*
- ★ *Crazy Times Tables*
- ★ There are plenty of others, just make sure to check the age recommendation

◆ Websites (these are also good to practice/review other math concepts):

- ★ Aplus Math -- <https://www.varsitytutors.com/aplusmath>
- ★ Prodigy -- <https://www.prodigygame.com/>
- ★ Mathville -- <https://mathville.com/>
- ★ Math Cats -- <http://www.mathcats.com/>
- ★ Math Playground -- <https://www.mathplayground.com/>
- ★ Figure This -- <https://figurethis.nctm.org/index.html>
- ★ FunBrain -- <https://www.funbrain.com/math-zone>
- ★ Academic Skill Builders -- <https://www.arcademics.com/>
- ★ Khan Academy -- [https://www.khanacademy.org/math/arithmetic/arith-review-multiply-divide/arith-review-mult-intro/e/multiplication\\_0.5](https://www.khanacademy.org/math/arithmetic/arith-review-multiply-divide/arith-review-mult-intro/e/multiplication_0.5)

## Social Studies

Because this is your world, an understanding of what is going on across the globe is important. As we learn about different places and cultures across time, knowledge of current events will help you this year, and as you move forward into middle school. Current events assignments will be required during the school year, and I would like for you to do some current events work over the summer, as well.

- **Assignment** -- During the course of the summer, please **read at least seven different CURRENT EVENTS articles** from newspapers or magazines. **Keep a log of these articles using the included Current Events Headline log.** You need to list the title/headline, the date the article appeared, and the name of the newspaper or magazine in which the article appeared, along with the "who, what, where, when, why" information. **A parent should sign this piece of paper to acknowledge you completed the assignment.**

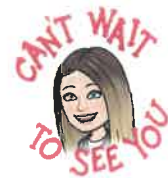
During the school year, we will also be watching CNN10, which is a student news program. If you choose to watch the news with your family, or on your own, you are welcome to ADDITIONALLY document that on your log as well!

## **Checklist to Bring in August**

The following things need to be turned in on the first day of school. These will be given a grade included in our first quarter:

- Number the Stars* Questions
- Book Summary Sheet (William A. White book)
- A copy of your William Allen White book to share with your classmates about which book you chose.
- Book Review Sheet
- Letter to Me (book of your choice)
- Reading Log
- Current Events Log

Fifth grade is going to be great! I cannot wait to see you in August and I am really looking forward to working with all of you this coming year!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# ***Number the Stars***

**by Lois Lowry**

## **VOCABULARY & COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

\*\*As you read, you may come across many words you are unfamiliar with. Please include these in the boxes as you go.

\*\*Answer the following questions by **restating** and **using complete sentences**.

### **Chapters 1 - 3**

Unknown Words:

★ Where is Copenhagen? Describe the setting. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ Why were Annemarie, Ellen, and Kirsti stopped by the soldiers? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ Why isn't Kirsti afraid of the soldiers? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ How would YOU feel if you were stopped by the German soldiers?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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★ Name the 2 main characters. Give a physical description of each.

○ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

○ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ What do you learn about how the lives of the citizens have changed since the Nazis have been in their town? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ What are some of the hardships faced by the Danish people because of the war? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ Why didn't the Danish army fight the Germans when they invaded Denmark? What did they do to their ships after the Nazis took over? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ Do you think King Christian did the right thing by surrendering to the Nazis? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ What did Annemarie realize about her friend Ellen after Peter's visit?

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★ What items were being rationed? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ How do the people of Denmark feel about their King? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ Why do the girls need to go to Mrs. Hirsch's shop? What do they find when they get there? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ What happened to Mrs. Hirsch? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ Why did the girls always take a different route to school? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ Explain the following sentence from Chapter 3: "All of Denmark must be bodyguards for the Jews...." Annemarie said. \_\_\_\_\_

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★ Do you think the Jews were being treated fairly by the Germans? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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Chapters 4 - 6

Unknown Words:

★ What were the “fireworks” Kirsti remembered? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ How did the Germans find out the names of the Danish Jews?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ Why was Kirsti upset when she and her mother returned from shopping?  
What was Ellen’s solution to the problem? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ Why was the Tivoli Gardens important to the Danes of Copenhagen?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ Why would Annemarie and Ellen need to pretend that they are sisters?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ What do we learn about what the Nazis are doing to the Jews?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ Do you think it was a good idea for the Johansens to let Ellen stay with them? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ What was Annemarie told about the death of her sister, Lise?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ Why did the German soldiers come to the Johansen's apartment?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ How did Mr. Johansen convince the German soldiers that Ellen was not a Jewish girl in hiding? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ What do you think would have happened to the Johansen's if Ellen's true identity had been discovered? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ What made Annemarie realize that her father was speaking in code to her uncle? What was their conversation really about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ Where did Annemarie, Kirsti, Ellen, and Mrs. Johansen travel? Why didn't Mr. Johansen go too? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ What was Mama's true reason for choosing the country path to Uncle Henrik's house? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ Why did they travel to Uncle Henrik's house? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ Why do you think the Danes spoke in code words? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Chapters 7 - 9**

Unknown Words:

★ What was across the sea from Uncle Henrik's town? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ What did Annemarie do with Ellen's necklace? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ What does the sea represent for Ellen and her family? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

★ Why did Mrs. Johansen ask the girls if they saw anyone while playing near the shore? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ Why was Annemarie surprised by Uncle Henrik's announcement that there was to be a funeral? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ What did Uncle Henrick mean when he said, "Tomorrow will be a good day for fishing"?

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★ Why would Uncle Henrick spend the whole night on his boat when his sister and nieces were visiting? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ Why didn't Annemarie tell Ellen the truth about Aunt Birte?

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★ Who do you think the people arriving for the funeral really are?

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★ Why did Mrs. Johansen and Uncle Henrick create the "death of an Aunt Birte"?

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Chapters 10 - 13

Unknown Words:

★ Why did the German soldiers come to Uncle Henrick's house?

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★ Why did the soldiers want to see in the casket? How did Mama stop them?

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★ What was the first test of Annemarie's bravery?

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★ Why was Peter reading from the bible so important?

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★ What does Annemarie think about when she hears "he who numbers the stars one by one..."?

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★ What was in the casket and why?

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★ Where were the Rosens and the other strangers going?

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★ What did Peter give the baby and why? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ Why did the officer slap Mama, and why does no one defend her?

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★ What was the purpose of Aunt Birte's funeral? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ What is in the package that Peter gave to Mr. Rosen to take to Uncle Henrick? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ What promise did Ellen make to Annemarie? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ What happened to Mrs. Johansen on the way back from Uncle Henrick's boat? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ Why did Mrs. Johansen tell Annemarie to act like a silly little girl if she were stopped? \_\_\_\_\_

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Chapters 14 - 17

Unknown Words:

★ Describe what happened to Annemarie on the way to the boat?

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★ Why did Annemarie choose to remember the fairy tale that she did? What does "the wolf" symbolize for Annemarie? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ How does the author describe the setting to show the reader the fear that Annemarie is feeling? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ Why did Annemarie have to be brave when she met the soldiers? How did she show bravery? How would you have reacted?

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★ What is Uncle Henrick's definition of "brave"? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ What was in the basket that helped fool the Germans into thinking it was Uncle Henrik's lunch? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ Why was it good that Annemarie did not know what was in the packet?

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★ Why do you think the Germans stopped Annemarie?

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★ Why do you think the contents of the packet were so important?

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★ What did Annemarie learn about Peter from Uncle Henrik?

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★ What were the two clues that should have let Annemarie know about Peter? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ What would have happened if Annemarie had not gotten the handkerchief to Uncle Henrik? \_\_\_\_\_

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★ What were the “ifs” that Annemarie is thinking over in her head?

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★ What do you think life in Sweden will be like for the Rosen's?

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★ Why was everyone celebrating in Denmark?

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★ What happened to Peter? What did Annemarie learn about Lise?

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★ What does Annemarie wearing Ellen's necklace show?

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★ Did you like this book? Why or why not? What was your favorite part of the book and why?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE BOOK SUMMARY SHEET

**Title and Author of Book:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Setting:**

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Characters:**

*(Name and describe the MAIN characters using character traits and complete sentences.)*

★ Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

★ Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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★ Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

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★ Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

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★ Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

★ Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Main Problem:**

*(Include a brief summary of the main problem/s in the story. Include at least two important events that take place in the story, too.)*

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**Opinion and Recommendation:**

*(Be sure to write about WHY you have this opinion and IF you would recommend this book with an explanation of why or why not).*

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