

I NEED THIS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT NOW DUE IN 35 MINUTES: What Is Annemarie Afraid That Kirsti Will Do On The

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In the novel *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry, the relationship between Annemarie Johansen and her younger sister Kirsti is central to the story's emotional depth. As the Nazi occupation of Denmark intensifies, Annemarie's fears grow—not only for her own safety but also for the safety of her family and loved ones. One of the most pressing concerns she grapples with involves her fears about what Kirsti might do in a tense and dangerous situation. Understanding Annemarie's fears requires exploring her protective instincts, her perceptions of Kirsti's personality, and the broader context of the events unfolding around them.

Understanding the Context: The Setting of *Number the Stars*

The story is set during World War II, specifically in Denmark, which was occupied by Nazi forces. The Johansens are a Jewish family trying to hide from the Nazi regime, and their young friends and neighbors are caught in the turmoil. Annemarie, as a teenage girl, finds herself in a position of responsibility and fear, especially as her family's safety becomes threatened.

This tense atmosphere heightens her anxieties about her sister Kirsti, who is younger and less aware of the dangers around her. Annemarie's fears stem from her desire to protect Kirsti from harm and her concern that Kirsti might inadvertently jeopardize their secret or put herself in danger.

What Is Annemarie Afraid That Kirsti Will Do?

1. Reckless Behavior or Impulsiveness

Annemarie worries that Kirsti, with her lively and mischievous personality, might act impulsively or recklessly. Because Kirsti is young and often oblivious to the seriousness of the situation, Annemarie fears she might do something that could reveal their hiding place or draw unwanted attention. For instance, Kirsti's playful nature might lead her to make noise, speak loudly, or behave in a way that attracts suspicion from outsiders or soldiers.

2. Talking or Revealing Secrets

Kirsti's outspoken and frank personality raises concerns that she might accidentally reveal sensitive information. Annemarie fears that Kirsti, in her innocence, could talk about their family or the Jewish community, especially if someone prompts her or if she becomes curious about the serious tone of the conversations around her. Such inadvertent disclosures could endanger everyone involved.

3. Acting Naively or Without Understanding the Danger

Kirsti's youth and innocence make her less aware of the gravity of the situation. Annemarie fears that her sister might not fully grasp the dangers they face and could inadvertently jeopardize their safety by acting naively—such as wandering off or engaging with strangers. Annemarie's protective instincts are heightened because she recognizes that Kirsti's innocence, while endearing, could be a vulnerability in such perilous times.

4. Making Noise or Drawing Attention

In a time when stealth is crucial, even a small noise or distraction could be dangerous. Annemarie fears that Kirsti might get excited or distracted and make noise that alerts soldiers or neighbors to their hiding place. Kirsti's playful nature and tendency to be loud or expressive could unintentionally compromise the secrecy they desperately need to maintain.

Why Does Annemarie Feel This Way? Analyzing Her Fears

1. Her Age and Maturity Level

Annemarie is a teenager, tasked with protecting her family and younger sister. Her fears are rooted in her sense of responsibility and maturity, but she also recognizes her own limitations. Her fears about Kirsti reflect her understanding of the dangerous world they live in and her desire to keep her family safe at all costs.

2. Her Love and Protective Instincts

Annemarie's love for her sister is profound. She views Kirsti as innocent and carefree, yet she knows that innocence can be a vulnerability under Nazi occupation. Her fears stem from her desire to shield Kirsti from harm and to prevent her from doing anything that could expose their secret.

3. The Reality of War and Occupation

The brutality of the Nazi regime and the constant threat of discovery heighten Annemarie's anxieties. She knows that even small mistakes can have life-threatening consequences, and her fears about Kirsti reflect the broader danger of their situation.

How Annemarie's Fears Manifest in the Story

1. Protective Actions

Throughout the story, Annemarie takes deliberate steps to safeguard Kirsti—such as keeping her close, instructing her on what to say or do if questioned, and trying to keep her calm and unaware of the full danger.

2. Internal Conflict

Annemarie's fears create internal conflict. She wants to protect her sister but also understands that she cannot shield her completely from the realities of their situation. This tension adds depth to her character and underscores the themes of courage and sacrifice.

3. Growth and Maturity

As the story progresses, Annemarie's fears evolve into actions of bravery. Her initial worries about Kirsti reflect her growth from a protective sister into a young woman capable of making difficult decisions for the good of others.

Conclusion: The Significance of Annemarie's Fears

Annemarie's fears that Kirsti might do something reckless or naive are rooted in her love, sense of responsibility, and the perilous context of Nazi-occupied Denmark. Her concerns highlight the innocence and vulnerability of youth amidst war and the importance of protective instincts in times of crisis. The story underscores how fear can motivate both protective behavior and courageous actions, illustrating the resilience of young individuals facing extraordinary circumstances.

Understanding Annemarie's fears allows readers to appreciate the emotional complexity of *Number the Stars* and the sacrifices made by ordinary people during one of history's darkest times. It also reminds us of the importance of caution, awareness, and love in moments of danger.

Note: If you need a more detailed expansion or specific focus on certain aspects, feel free to ask!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Annemarie afraid Kirsti will do in the story?

Annemarie fears that Kirsti might reveal their secret about the Jews or cause trouble that could jeopardize their safety.

Why does Annemarie feel anxious about the situation involving Kirsti?

Annemarie is anxious because she worries that Kirsti might unintentionally reveal important information or act impulsively during a tense moment.

How does Annemarie's fear reflect the overall tension in the story?

Her fear highlights the danger and secrecy surrounding their resistance efforts and the constant threat from the Nazi soldiers.

What specific event is Annemarie worried Kirsti might do on the day in question?

Annemarie is worried that Kirsti might accidentally reveal that they are hiding Ellen or the Jewish family, which could put everyone at risk.

How does Annemarie try to prevent Kirsti from acting impulsively?

Annemarie tries to keep Kirsti calm and instructs her carefully on what to say and do to avoid suspicion.

Does Annemarie's fear come true in the story?

In the story, Annemarie's fears are initially realized when Kirsti nearly reveals their secret but is stopped in time by Annemarie.

What does Annemarie's fear reveal about her character?

It shows that Annemarie is responsible, protective, and deeply aware of the dangers they face during the Nazi occupation.

How does the tension about Kirsti's actions contribute to the story's theme?

It emphasizes themes of bravery, secrecy, and the importance of staying calm under pressure in dangerous situations.

Additional Resources

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In the realm of historical fiction, *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry stands out as a poignant portrayal

of courage, fear, and the innocence of childhood amidst the harrowing backdrop of Nazi-occupied Denmark. Central to this narrative is the relationship between Annemarie Johansen and her younger sister Kirsti. As the story unfolds, Annemarie's fears about what Kirsti might do—particularly in moments of crisis—reveal layers of sibling dynamics, childhood innocence, and the heavy burden of responsibility placed on young shoulders during times of peril. This article delves into Annemarie's specific fears about Kirsti, exploring their origins, implications, and what they tell us about her character and the broader themes of the novel.

Understanding the Context: The Setting and Stakes

Before analyzing Annemarie's fears, it's vital to understand the context in which these fears arise. The novel is set in Copenhagen during World War II, a period marked by danger, secrecy, and the constant threat of discovery for Jews and resistance sympathizers. Annemarie Johansen's family becomes involved in aiding a Jewish family to escape Nazi persecution, which puts them in grave danger.

This tense environment creates a climate where even minor actions can have life-or-death consequences. Children like Kirsti, oblivious to the full gravity of the situation, often behave normally—sometimes inappropriately or naively—without realizing the danger they are in. Annemarie, as an older sister, bears the emotional weight of protecting her family's secrets and ensuring her sister's safety.

What Does Annemarie Fear Kirsti Will Do? A Closer Look

Annemarie's fears about Kirsti center around her potential actions that could jeopardize their covert operations or endanger their lives. These fears are rooted in her awareness of the dangerous environment and her protective instincts. Key fears include:

1. Kirsti Revealing Secrets or Making Noise

One of Annemarie's primary concerns is that Kirsti might accidentally reveal their activities or the presence of the Jewish family they are hiding. Kirsti's natural curiosity and playful nature could lead her to:

- Talk about the Jewish family openly, risking discovery
- Make noise that draws attention to their hiding place
- Ask questions that could reveal their secret

Given the strict rules of secrecy during wartime, even innocent conversations could be dangerous.

Annemarie fears that Kirsti's childhood innocence might inadvertently expose everything they are trying to protect.

2. Kirsti Acting Inappropriately in Public

Another significant concern is Kirsti's behavior when outside the safety of their home. Annemarie worries that Kirsti might:

- Say or do something that reveals her family's involvement with the resistance
- Draw unwanted attention through her actions or words
- Be overly boisterous or disrespectful, attracting suspicion

Public behavior was a critical concern during the occupation, where even small missteps could lead to arrest or worse.

3. Kirsti's Lack of Understanding of the Danger

Kirsti, being very young, lacks a full understanding of the danger around her. Annemarie fears that this innocence might lead her to:

- Fail to grasp the seriousness of the situation
- Engage in playful or careless actions that could endanger others
- Ask questions that might compromise their safety

Annemarie's protective instincts are heightened by her awareness that children often do not comprehend the risks involved.

4. Emotional Reactions and Impulsiveness

Children are naturally emotional and impulsive. Annemarie fears that Kirsti might:

- Overreact emotionally, revealing her distress or excitement
- Fail to hide her feelings when under pressure
- Panic if she senses danger, potentially alerting the Nazis

This concern underscores the importance of maintaining composure and secrecy during tense moments.

Exploring Annemarie's Fears: Underlying Reasons and

Character Insights

Annemarie's fears are not merely about her sister's behavior but are deeply rooted in her sense of responsibility and maturity. Several factors influence her anxieties:

1. Protective Instincts and Maturity

As the older sister, Annemarie feels a natural sense of duty to guard her family and her younger siblings. Her fears reflect her awareness that children, especially Kirsti, are more vulnerable and less capable of understanding the gravity of their actions.

2. Awareness of the Danger

Annemarie's knowledge of Nazi brutality and the risks involved in aiding Jews amplifies her fears. She recognizes that even a small mistake could have deadly consequences, leading her to be hyper-vigilant regarding Kirsti's actions.

3. Childhood Innocence vs. War Reality

Kirsti's innocence and childlike behavior clash with the dangerous reality they face. Annemarie's fears highlight the tension between childhood innocence and the harshness of war, emphasizing how children's perspectives are shaped and sometimes limited by their age.

4. Emotional Burden and Growing Up Quickly

Throughout the novel, Annemarie is forced to grow up quickly, shouldering responsibilities beyond her years. Her fears about Kirsti serve as a reflection of her internal struggle to protect her family while maintaining her own emotional resilience.

Implications of Annemarie's Fears in the Narrative

Understanding what Annemarie fears about Kirsti provides insight into the novel's themes and character development. These fears serve several narrative functions:

1. Highlighting the Vulnerability of Children

The fears underscore how children, despite their innocence, are deeply affected by the adult world's dangers. Kirsti's behavior exemplifies innocence that must be carefully guarded in perilous times.

2. Emphasizing the Theme of Responsibility

Annemarie's fears illustrate her sense of responsibility, a central theme in the novel. Her protective instincts showcase the moral and emotional burdens borne by young characters during wartime.

3. Building Tension and Suspense

The fears create suspense, as readers are aware that even minor lapses could be catastrophic. This tension keeps the story compelling and underscores the constant danger faced by the characters.

4. Demonstrating Growth and Courage

As the story progresses, Annemarie's fears transform into actions of bravery. Her ability to manage her fears and act decisively highlights her growth from a frightened girl to a courageous young heroine.

Conclusion: The Significance of Annemarie's Fears About Kirsti

In the intricate fabric of *Number the Stars*, Annemarie's fears about what Kirsti might do serve as a lens through which readers understand the complexities of childhood amid chaos. These fears reflect her protective instincts, her awareness of the dangers they face, and her desire to shield her sister from harm. They also symbolize the innocence that must be preserved and protected in times of conflict. Ultimately, Annemarie's concerns deepen the emotional resonance of the novel, illustrating how even the youngest members of a family are caught in the web of history's tumult—yet, through their fears and actions, they reveal resilience and hope.

In summary, Annemarie's fears about Kirsti are multifaceted, rooted in genuine concern and a profound sense of responsibility. They highlight the tension between childhood innocence and the harsh realities of war, serving as a powerful reminder of the vulnerabilities faced by young children during times of upheaval. Through these fears, Lois Lowry not only characterizes Annemarie as a brave and caring sister but also underscores the universal themes of protection, growth, and resilience in the face of adversity.

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