

# Summer Assignment

## Miss Ring's Fifth Grade

Welcome new fifth graders! In order to prepare for next year, you will have a Summer Reading assignment to be completed and turned in on the first day of school.

You will read the Newbery Award winning *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry. A copy of this book is available from Mrs. Wilson. **Please do not lose your book!** These books, along with the assignment, must be turned in to me on the first day of school, and it will count against the overall assignment grade if your copy is missing. If you want to buy your own copy instead of borrowing mine, *Number the Stars* is available in the children's section of most bookstores and libraries.

The Assignment: *5 paragraph essay.* After reading the novel completely, you will need to write a **four-paragraph summary** about the book. The first paragraph should detail events at the beginning of the story, the second and third paragraph should deal with events in the middle, and the fourth paragraph should describe the ending. Also, a **fifth paragraph** should be included stating your opinion on the book (did you like it or not?) and then giving reasons for your opinion (why did or didn't you like it?).

Because *Number the Stars* deals with World War II and the Holocaust (two subjects you may not know very much about), I am including a **brief encyclopedia article** with the book. Please read it before starting the novel, it will aid your understanding of the events in the book.

*\*\*If you have any questions regarding the assignment, you can e-mail me at [aring@ashevillecatholic.org](mailto:aring@ashevillecatholic.org) and I will get back to you.*

# **A Brief History Lesson on World War II**

(taken and modified from wikipedia.org)

**World War II** (abbreviated **WWII**), or the **Second World War**, was a worldwide conflict which lasted from 1939 to 1945.

In the six years preceding World War II, Adolf Hitler, leading the Nazi Party, took power in Germany and got rid of its democratic (free) government.

The immediate causes of World War II are generally held to be the German invasion of Poland, as well as the Japanese attacks on China, the United States, and the British and Dutch colonies. All of the attacks resulted from the dictatorships in Germany and Japan. World War II began after these acts of hostility were met with an official declaration of war or armed resistance.

This global conflict split the majority of the world's nations into two opposing sides: the Allies and the Axis. Spanning much of the globe, World War II resulted in the deaths of over 60 million people, making it the deadliest conflict in human history.

World War II was the most widespread war humanity has ever experienced, involving over 100 million soldiers from 61 nations, with fighting covering over 20 million km.

**The Holocaust** is the term used to describe the killing of approximately six million European Jews during World War II, as part of a program by the Nazi government in Germany led by Adolf Hitler.