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Quick Write—Quick Share

Write the following topic ideas on the board, or make copies of this page for the students. Have students select a topic and begin writing about it, nonstop, for 10 or 15 minutes. They may either use complete sentences or phrases. The purpose of this activity is for students to get ideas down on paper and develop fluency in writing. It should not be graded.

Topic 1

Ellen has had some practice acting in school, but now she is called upon to “perform” in order to save her life. She must be very brave. Write about a time when you had to be brave. Did you have to act like everything was fine to protect someone or yourself? How did you feel?

Topic 2

Annemarie and Ellen are best friends and share many secrets while they are spending the night together. Write about your best friend. Do you ever spend the night together? What do you enjoy talking about? What qualities does your friend have?

Topic 3

These chapters tell about a time when people are very frightened. Write about a time when you were afraid. What happened? Who was there? Would you feel differently if faced with the same situation today?

Topic 4

This story takes place in Denmark during World War II, when it is occupied by Germany. What do you think it would be like to live under these circumstances? What could you do, or not do? What things would you not have? How would you feel?

After the students have done their free-writing, organize them into groups according to the topics they have chosen. Ask the students to share their writing with the group. Together each group can make a collage on a sheet of poster board to illustrate that topic. The title of the collages can be as follows:

Topic 1 - Bravery

Topic 3 - Fear

Topic 2 - Friendship

Topic 4 - Occupied

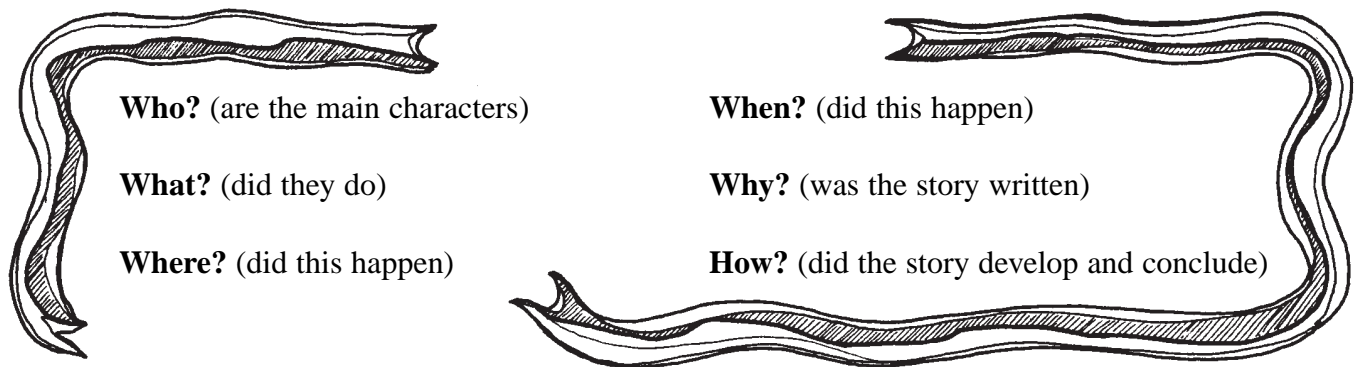
Of course, students may have original, creative titles of their own to suggest and should be encouraged to use them.

Star of David Story Web

The Star of David has six points and is composed of two intersecting triangles. It is a symbol that has been used throughout the centuries to represent the Jews. For this activity, you will use the Star of David as the center for a story web to represent an overview of *Number the Stars*. Use the following information to make the star and to complete the web.

Choose a material such as plywood, cardboard, or straws to construct a pair of identical equilateral triangles. Paint these gold or cover them with foil. Overlap them to form a Star of David. Glue the triangles together. Mount the star on a piece of tag board, poster board, or plywood and place it in the center of your story web. (If regular glue won't hold, try using a glue gun which is available at craft stores. A glue gun can become very hot, so be sure an adult supervises this activity.)

In the center of the star, write the title of the story. At each of the six points, write one of the five W's and How of good reporting:



If you are working in groups, you may find that there is some disagreement about what the main idea of the story is, or why the story was written. That's okay. Write down your ideas, and try to come to a consensus on an idea about which you can all agree.

Once this information is recorded, see if you have space left to draw some characters, symbols, or scenes from the book. This project can then be used as a library display on Newbery Award books, or to advertise the book for another class.

