

Symbolism:

Symbols are objects or events that have special meanings that go beyond their literal meanings. For example, in the United States, an eagle is not just a bird, it is also a symbol for freedom. When we see a red octagon, we think not only of a red shape, but also the act of stopping.

Identify the symbolic meaning of each of the following things:

1. the stars on the American flag _____
2. the cross _____
3. the Star of David _____
4. the swastika _____

Some things are symbolic only in certain stories. These things would not always have the same symbolism in other stories. For example, in Jesus' parable of the sower (Mark 4:2-20), the seed is symbolic of the Word of God. However, a seed does not always make someone think of the Word of God.

The following examples are symbols found specifically in *Number the Stars*. Think of what these objects might represent in the story.

5. Sweden _____
6. the coffin _____
7. the stars in the book's title _____

Can you think of any other symbolism in *Number the Stars*? Write your ideas below.

Annemarie

Ellen

