

# 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE LEVEL II

Dear Lois Lowry,

Your book *Number the Stars* inspired me to get involved in a very similar situation. The family in the book showed their true colors by standing up for what was right, even though it put them in grave danger. No matter your religion, Jewish or Christian, or your age, young or old, you can stand up for what you believe in. Everyone is capable of becoming a hero. The character Anna Marie showed great bravery when she was just ten years old. Running to the boat to give the handkerchief that erased the scent of the Jewish people, helped them survive. It was hard for the Jewish people because in *Number the Stars*, back then people were not only discriminated against based on their religion, but they were often killed!

This is similar to the circumstances occurring today in the region of Darfur, Sudan. As in *Number the Stars* citizens in Darfur are being run out of their homes and villages. As I read *Number the Stars* I felt furious about what happened to the people back then during the Holocaust. When I heard about Darfur, I was intent on preventing the horrors of the past from reoccurring.

Over, please

The problem of genocide did not end with the Holocaust. Everyone who has been greatly inspired by a book on genocide would understand it must be stopped. I sent letters to organizations to get more information on the topic of Darfur. After several tries I succeeded and in no time at all I was passing out booklets I had put together to inform classmates about the subject. In the packets I gave a basic summary about the war in Darfur and I also included information on organizations people can join to donate money to help solve the conflict. After a couple of weeks I received a letter back from the organizations saying they had received many donations from the town of West Hartford. I wish I could have prevented the Holocaust, but I will make up for it by helping stop the genocide in Darfur.

Books are very powerful, and can change your feelings on a topic totally, just like your book inspired me to get involved in a similar topic. When I was reading about the Germans torturing the Jewish people, that one part alone clicked in my head that there must be some way to help ...

Sincerely,

Cole Stabnick

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