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After reading *Number the Stars*:

By Stephanie Abraham

After reading *Number the Stars*

Hicela's soft eyes asked, *It was illegal*
Sitting in my classroom, she read about
the Rosens' escape from their homeland
Oh, she says, It was wrong to be a Jew

Sitting in my classroom, she wrote about
her own secret crossing to a hidden home
where her family fears a knock on their door
maybe this is the last day here.

Thinking of her own secret crossing,
Hicela's soft eyes say, *It's illegal.*



Stephanie Abraham is an Assistant Professor of Language & Literacy Education at Rowan University. She studies the everyday language and literacy practices of bilingual children and their families, as well as how classroom pedagogies can include and value those practices. Her research has been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Americas Research Network, the Fulbright Hays Program, and the Spencer Foundation. Her work has been published in *Critical Education*, *Radical Teacher*, *Discourse: Cultural Studies in the Politics of Education*, and the *Journal of Educational Policy*. Dr. Abraham can be reached at abrahams@rowan.edu.