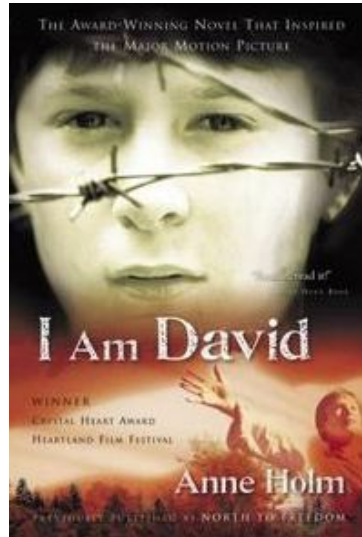


# I Am David



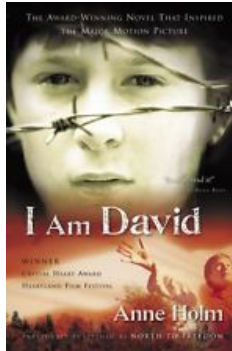
By

Anne Holm

A Novel Study  
by Nat Reed

# I Am David

By Anne Holm



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# I Am David

By Anne Holm



## Suggestions and Expectations

This 55 page curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on one chapter of *I Am David* and is comprised of four different activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language and Extension Activities

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking.

### Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

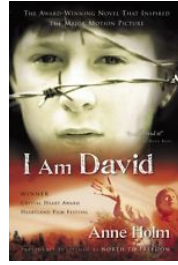
- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters . . . respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

Students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included as well as a **Student Checklist**.

**Themes** which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include perseverance, courage, sacrifice, loyalty, personal growth, overcoming difficulty, Communism, concentration camps.

# I Am David

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## List of Skills

### Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words / phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying / creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *personification*.
7. Working with anagrams.
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identification of root words
13. Identify/create *similes*

### Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

### Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Identify the climax of the novel.
4. Five W's Chart

### Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Protagonists
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Comparing two Characters

### Creative and Critical Thinking

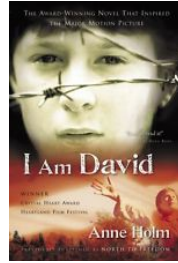
1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Write a letter to a friend
4. Complete an Observation Chart
5. Conduct an interview
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete a KWS Chart

### Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Design an Information Card

# I Am David

By Anne Holm



## Synopsis

David lay quite still in the darkness of the camp, waiting for the signal.

“You must get away tonight,” the man had told him. “Stay awake so that you’re ready just before the guard is changed. When you see me strike a match, the current will be cut off and you can climb over – you’ll have half a minute for it, no more.”

David escapes from a concentration camp and flees across Europe. He is utterly alone – who can he trust? What will await him back home?

And all the while he knows that *they* may catch up with him... [The Publisher]

## Author Biography

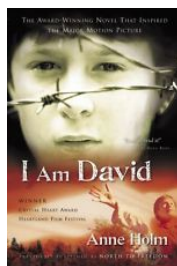
*Anne Holm*

**Anne Holm**, born **Else Anne Lise Jørgensen** in Oksbøl, Denmark (September 10, 1922 – December 27, 1998) was a Danish journalist and children's writer. Her books were written mainly for young readers, although they are also quite popular with adults. Her best known book is *I Am David* (1963) which was also published as *North to Freedom*. It won the ALA Notable Book award in 1965, the 1963 Best Scandinavian Children's Book award and the Boys Club of America Junior Book Award Gold Medal. She also wrote *Peter* (1966), which tells the story of a teenage boy who travels in time to ancient Greece and medieval England.



# I Am David

By Anne Holm

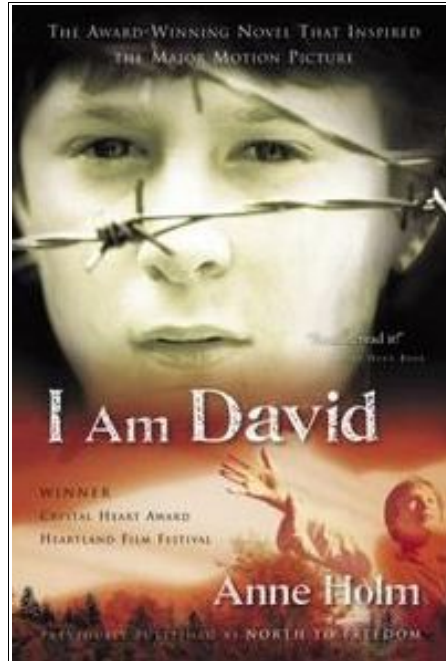


## Student Checklist

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment	Grade / Level	Comments

# I Am David

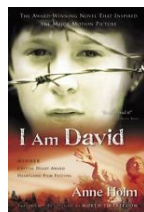


*By Anne Holm*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# I Am David

By Anne Holm



## Chapter 1



### Before you read the chapter:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The main protagonist of *I Am David* is a fascinating young boy, David, who is a prisoner in a Communist concentration camp. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read or movies you’ve seen. What do you think makes for an especially interesting protagonist?




### Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

interfere	intended	repulsive	accustomed	penetrate
catastrophe	disposal	obstacle	imperceptible	partition

1. The warden never \_\_\_\_\_ for the prisoners to be deprived of their supper.
2. The two farmers built a rock wall to act as a \_\_\_\_\_ between their fields.
3. The whisper of the hummingbird’s wings was almost \_\_\_\_\_ to those who were listening.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the crates carrying the explosives will have to be done with great care.
5. I am sure that within five minutes my mother will begin to \_\_\_\_\_ with the children’s game of tag.



6. The steel-tipped arrow will likely \_\_\_\_\_ a suit of armor.
7. The moat proved to be a serious \_\_\_\_\_ to those attacking the castle.
8. The spread of small pox was an enormous \_\_\_\_\_ to the people of Europe.
9. The children soon became \_\_\_\_\_ to the noise of the construction site located beside their playground.
10. I found the very thought of eating an octopus to be quite \_\_\_\_\_.

## Questions



1. Anne Holm is a very skillful writer. What **atmosphere** does she create in the very opening paragraph of this novel?


2. Describe the **setting** at the beginning of Chapter One.


3. As the novel opens, what was David being urged to do? What was David's opinion of the man who was urging him to do this?


### **Good to Know**

**Salonica** (Thessalonica) is the second largest city in Greece. Today the metropolitan area of the city has a population of over one million people. It is considered as the cultural center of the country. One of the books of the Bible is addressed to the church in Thessalonica.



4. Cite one example of David's courage in this chapter.


5. David used a \_\_\_\_\_ to guide him on his journey. He was told to travel south until he reached the city of \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Describe how by taking a serious risk, David was able to speed up his journey.


7. Why do you think that David hadn't allowed himself to think of Johannes for the past three years?


8. Johannes died of a \_\_\_\_\_.

9. Describe in detail how David reached Italy from Salonica, Greece.


10. When David finally reached the shores of Italy at the end of Chapter One, what impressed him the most?




## Language Activities

**A. Personification** is giving human qualities to something that is not human. An example from Chapter 1: ... *when fear grew to a sharp-pointed terror...* In this example **fear** is personified – *growing* as if it were a living thing.

a) Why do you think personification is a literary device used by many authors?


b) Create your own example of personification.


c) Bonus: Keep your eyes open for another example of personification. When you find one, come back to this page and record it below.


**B.** Write the plural of the following nouns from this chapter. Careful – you may wish to consult a dictionary for some of these words.

Singular Noun	Plural Noun
man	
match	
knife	
victory	
person	
tooth	
lorry	
Italian	
body	
beauty	

## C. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **PAN** can also form the word **NAP**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:

a) read the clue in the right-hand column.

b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters.

Each of the words in the left-hand column are found in the first chapter.

Word	Anagram	Clue
spoke		Prods.
others		Fired again.
table		Sound made by a sheep.
partly		Not very much of something.
later		Change.
bread		Removed clothing.

D. Find three examples of the following parts of speech from this chapter.

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives

## Extension Activities

### Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.

Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first chapter of *I Am David*. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6



*Map of Europe*

