Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Per: \_\_\_

**NUMBER THE STARS: FINAL PROJECT – RAPPING IT UP.**

Music plays a big part in our lives. From the time we are born, there are melodies and lyrics that have meaning to us and our families. You probably have several favorite songs which create deep feelings within you. Whether it’s a ballad which tells a story, a nonsense song that makes you feel good, or a heavy rock-n-roll anthem that gets your head banging and shows off your massive air guitar skills, music is life. The genre of rap music often combines these tools to create emotional and passionate music.

You and your group will create a rap song which retells the story of Number the Stars. When completed, you and your group will perform the song for the class. Your song should hit all of the highlights of the story – the major plot points (rising action, climax, falling action, resolution). You will need to work together very carefully to make sure you have enough information in your song to properly tell the tale of Annemarie and Ellen.

**Guidelines/Instructions:**

\* Length of song: Between 3 and 5 minutes in length. You must ensure that your song contains enough of the plot so that someone hearing your song will understand exactly what is going on in the story. You should create a **Plot Map** to make sure you hit all of the important points. Please follow normal school guidelines – no cursing, swearing, or lyrics that are unacceptable for our campus.

\* Everyone in your group must perform the song. Whether as solo, duos, or all together, everybody ‘sings.’ No exceptions.

\* Memorized…I understand it can be difficult for some to completely memorize a song in a short period of time. HOWEVER…while I will allow you to have your lyrics with you, you MAY NOT just read from your sheet. You need to know enough of your song by heart so we can see your eyes and your song flows through the lyrics.

\* Music Choice: Yes, you will need to have some actual music in the background as you perform your song. You and your group will need to find a recording of a beat that you will use as your basic rhythm, then write your song around that beat. Listen to various styles of rap music to get a feel for the different rhythms available to you. There are many websites where you can download basic backbeats for free. Please do not copy any artist’s already-published rap song. ***Oh yes - It’s a rap song…so it had better rhyme!***

\* While you will have several days in class to work on this, you will also need to work on it outside of class with your group, so that you are ready to go on performance day…and it will be performed on **Friday, March 25th**, right after our quizzes. That’s one week from today.

\* On the day you perform, you will need to submit a copy of your lyrics to me on paper before you begin your performance. I may be recording your performance – please be prepared. You may choose to wear costume items/use props when you perform – that is acceptable, but not required. HOWEVER…if you choose to wear costumes, they must be coordinated among your group, and be relevant to the song. If this is the case, your group may earn bonus points for their outfits.

**POSSIBLE POINTS: 100**

\* Lyrics accurately retell the story of Number the Stars – 40

\* Personal knowledge of your lyrics (being prepared) – 25

\* Background music for your song – 15

\* Song meets length requirements – 10

\* Copy of lyrics delivered on performance day – 10

\*\* Coordinated costumes/props – up to 10 extra credit points (Teacher’s discretion).

Have fun – be creative – listen to everyone’s suggestions and be open to commentary and critique. And stay focused…you CAN do this.