

QUICK CARD: I AM DAVID



Reference	<i>I Am David</i> . Anne Holm. Originally published as <i>North to Freedom</i> . (1963) ISBN-13: 978-0152051600
Plot	David, a 12 year old inmate of a Soviet prison camp in Bulgaria, is helped to escape by a guard who provides him with necessities, a compass, and a route to freedom. He must avoid “them,” the Communist guards that might track him, and get North to freedom.
Setting	Post-WWII Soviet labor camp in Bulgaria (north of Greece) and the countries David traverses on his hike to the free country of Denmark in the North, some of which are communist and others democratic.
Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David (protagonist) – 12 year old inmate of a Bulgarian prison camp who escapes to his freedom in the North. He has been imprisoned in the camp since his infancy. • The Prison Guard – (The Man) Helps David escape from the camp • Johannes – a friend to David in the camp. He is older, wiser, full of character and compassion. He “raises” David. He dies in the camp. • Carlo – An Italian bully and the brother of David’s friend, Maria. David distrusts him because of his violent tendencies and lack of compassion. • Maria – Carlo’s lovely young sister, whom David saves from a fire set by Carlo and his friends • Maria’s father – a kind, wealthy Italian, grateful to David for saving his daughter. He invites David to stay with his family. • Maria’s mother – also grateful to David, she senses his hatred of her son. She doesn’t understand David and considers him abnormal. Her fear and distrust of David cause him to continue his journey North. • Signora Hartmann – A Danish artist that quietly shows David kindness. She seems to understand David. He notices her love of beauty and shares it. She doesn’t force him to stay with her. It is from her that he first hears his mother’s story. • The Farmer – A stingy, mean, cruel and oppressive man who imprisons and uses David through a harsh winter. David escapes with the farmer’s dog, whom he has befriended. They bond against the farmer’s abuses.

<p>Characters (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dog – lays his life down for David • “Them” (antagonists) – the Soviet soldiers and prison guards • The other travelers David encounters on his journey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The kind baker • The mother and child • The sailor • The truck Driver • The husband and wife out of gas • The English couple
<p>Conflict</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man vs. Self • Man vs. Man • Man vs. Society
<p>Theme</p>	<p>The source of Freedom; Sacrificial/Redemptive Love; Identity and Character</p>
<p>Literary Devices</p>	<p>Dramatic irony</p>

