

# **Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl Study Guide**

**Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank**

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## Plot Summary

The *Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank details approximately two years of the life a Jewish teenager during World War II. During much of the time period covered by her journal, Anne and her family are in hiding in an attempt to escape Hitler's anti-Jewish laws and genocidal desires. Anne's diary ends abruptly in August, 1944. On that day, she and her family are taken into custody by the Germans and transported to concentration camps.

Shortly after Anne gets her diary as a gift on her thirteenth birthday, her sister Margot gets call up orders by the German army. These call up orders force her Jewish family into hiding from Hitler and his men. Anne and her family are joined in the "Secret Annex" — a portion of Otto Frank's office building — by the three members of the van Daan family and a dentist named Albert Dussel.

Anne's diary entries are written to a fictitious girl named "Kitty" whom Anne treats as her best friend. She initially writes mostly her thoughts, interactions, and occurrences that she believes might entertain her friend. In her March 29, 1944 entry Anne's emphasis changes as she hears that Mr. Bolkestein, the cabinet minister, speaks of his desire to put together a collection of diaries and letters about the war. Anne starts detailing the news she gets about the war and the way the war is affecting them. She tells what they eat and what they talk about during their days in hiding.

Anne spends most of her life in a terrible time when Jews were persecuted; yet, her belief in the goodness of people is amazing. She states several times in her journal, even when the family is in hiding from those who want to kill them, that she still believes that people are inherently good. Perhaps, it is the resiliency of Anne's positive nature that is the most memorable theme in her writing. In addition to news of the war and everyday occurrences, Anne gives details about her relationship with her mother. She also journals about love and her desire to be a better person.



# June 12, 1942 – Thursday, July 9, 1942

## Summary

June 12, 1942 – Thursday, July 9, 1942

In her June 12th entry, Anne writes that she hopes the diary will be a source of comfort and support. In her June 14th entry, Anne describes receiving her diary on her birthday. Of all the gifts she received, she notes she believes the journal is the nicest. On June 15th, Anne describes her birthday party Sunday. She then gives details of the other children in her class at school. She credits many of the boys in her class as being “in love” with her.

In her June 20th entry, Anne discusses the way that she hopes that her diary will take the place of the one true friend that she has not been able to find. She decides to treat her diary as if she were writing to a friend. She has decided to refer to this friend as “Kitty.” She tells the history of her family as they have fled Germany to Holland to escape Hitler’s reign. When the Germans come to Holland, the anti-Jewish laws and curfews are put into effect. Anne’s birthday had gone uncelebrated for the past two years because her grandmother had passed away after being quite ill. She writes that this birthday, which the family celebrated so much more than usual, was meant to make up for the two prior uncelebrated birthdays.

In her first letter to Kitty, Anne tells her about the ping-pong team her friends have created as well as the name they gave the team. Anne also writes about the way that she flirts with the boys in her class and the way she lets those who get too familiar know that she isn’t interested.

In her June 21st, entry Anne describes the anxiety felt by her and her classmates as time comes for teachers to determine who will be promoted and who will not in her school. She writes she isn’t worried about herself since the only problems that she’s had have been in math because she talks too much.

In her June 24th entry, Anne writes the heat is even worse because Jews aren’t allowed to ride the streetcars. She is happy that school will be finished soon, especially since her bicycle was stolen. A sixteen-year-old boy named Hello begins walking her to and from school.

In her July 1st entry, Anne writes that Hello tells her that his grandmother has warned him that Anne is too young for him to be dating on a regular basis. He tells her that he still plans to see her, to which Anne responds that he shouldn’t go behind his grandparents’ backs. Hello comes to meet Anne’s parents the following Monday. They go out for a walk and don’t get back until late. Anne’s father is furious and makes her promise to be home on time from then on. Anne writes that even with Hello dating her, she still plans to marry Peter.



Anne's father begins talking about them going into hiding, she reports in her July 5th entry.

In her July 8th entry, Anne tells Kitty that her world has turned upside down. Her father has received a call up order from the SS. Margot later tells Anne the order is not for their father but for Margot. They leave the house the following morning wearing layers upon layers of clothes. Margot takes her schoolbag and follows Miep first. The rest of the family leave later. Anne's cat is the only living thing she is allowed to tell good-bye.

In her July 9th entry, Anne describes the walk to their hiding place. As they walk, Anne's mother and father tell her they are going to Anne's father's office building. Anne describes the working portion of the office building as well as the part of the building in which they will be living.

## Analysis

Although written by a thirteen-year-old girl, Anne's diary is significant because it describes what life was like for Jews during Hitler's reign. Even before they are forced into hiding, the Franks were expected to follow specific guidelines set forth for them by the government. These laws reflect the discrimination against Jews during this time period. Jews had to go to certain schools. They were forbidden from shopping in certain stores. They could not ride in streetcars or even drive their own cars. They were also required to wear a yellow star visible on their clothing any time they went out to indicate to others that they were Jews. Anne writes in her diary that she often saw sympathetic looks from other people on the street, but the people didn't dare offer any assistance when she was walking or seemed hot because they could get into trouble.

While they had already made plans to go into hiding, the family is forced to put its plan into action more quickly because the SS, or the Schutzstaffel, the armed forces of Hitler's army have sent a call up letter for Margot. It was well known that those who received call up orders generally went to concentration camps. Anne is shocked that the Germans are interested in killing people as young and as innocent as Margot.

Along with her record of Jewish life, Anne writes about the normal teenager struggles that she's facing. Although she seems popular, Anne wishes that she had a best friend in whom she could confide. She decides to write her journal entries in the form of letters to a pretend best friend. Anne struggles with her school work in the shadow of an older sister who gets perfect grades. Her grades are acceptable, but not honor worthy. She's afraid she won't be able to stay at the Jewish school, to which she has been admitted conditionally because her grades were not exceptional. Additionally, Anne has a habit of talking too much, which often gets her into trouble. As is demonstrated in her diary, Anne is outspoken and honest concerning the people around her and her feelings for them.



## **Discussion Question 1**

Research and discuss the reasons for the Anti-Semitism in this time period. Why did Anne and her family have to go into hiding?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Why does the SS call for Margot and not for her parents?

## **Discussion Question 3**

How does Anne's life change in a short time? How would you feel in her situation?

## **Vocabulary**

Capitulation, decrees, rampant, enamored, ardor, blithely, incorrigible, fanatic, mayhem, conspicuous.



# Friday, July 10, 1942 – Monday, September 28, 1942

## Summary

Friday, July 10, 1942 – Monday, September 28, 1942

In her July 10th entry, Anne describes her first couple of days in the Secret Annex as she and her family unpack the boxes that had been sent up ahead of them and try to make a home of the hidden rooms. In the July 11th entry, Anne continues her description of their hiding place. They are located where they can hear the Westertoren clock chime every quarter of an hour. The sound is irritating to some, but it is comforting to Anne. Anne and her father sew curtains to cover the windows to keep people from seeing into their hiding place. They are not allowed to look out the windows or go outside. At night, they can make no noise because it might give away their location. Although Anne believes that the Secret Annex is the best hiding place in Holland, she knows that she will never feel at home there.

The differences between Anne, her mother, and Margot are the topic of Anne's July 12th entry. She feels her family treats her differently from Margot with whom they are not very strict. Anne, on the other hand, feels that she is punished and belittled for everything that she does, wrong or right. She feels her father is her only confidant. Even he sides with her mother and Margot. Anne also misses her cat.

The van Daan family has arrived in Anne's August 14th entry. They tell the Franks about what happened at their apartment after they left. Mrs. van Daan says she started a rumor that the Frank family had help from a high-ranking officer who was a friend of Mr. Frank to run to Switzerland.

In her August 21st entry Anne writes that the entrance to their secret rooms has been hidden behind a bookcase that swings open on hinges like a door. Officers are searching houses for stolen bicycles and the owners of the building in which Anne and the others are hiding believe it will help keep their hiding place camouflaged. Anne also writes that she and Mr. van Daan are always at odds with one another. Her mother continues to lecture her regularly. In her September 2nd entry Anne describes an argument between Mr. and Mrs. van Daan as well as trouble with Peter concerning a book he was forbidden to read.

In her September 21st entry Anne writes about the guns the family is able to hear at night. She's been given a light she can turn on at night when she hears these guns. She continues to share the arguments between herself and Mrs. van Dann as well as the schoolwork she's working on. In her September 25th entry, Anne writes the van Danns tease her about learning to love Peter like a brother. She also describes the lengths that



they go to in order to confirm to a man who is holding some of their belongings that they are still safe but not give away the location of their hiding place.

In her September 27th entry Anne writes again about the way that her mother does not understand her. She indicates that her mother's personality and her sister's personality are much different from her own. Anne is additionally angered by Mrs. van Daan's attempts to insinuate that Anne is spoiled and that she should be handled differently by her parents. In her September 28th entry Anne continues to report about the bickering that takes place between the adults in the Annex. Anne calls their actions "barbaric" especially since much of the complaints are directed at something that she has done or said. She reports that it is only after a family argument that Anne realizes what a small, insecure person that Mrs. van Daan really is.

## Analysis

In this section of her novel, Anne doesn't share much of what is happening in the world around her but focuses mainly on interpersonal relationships between those in the Annex. She does mention that sometimes they hear guns outside in the city at night. She also writes about some of the rumors that are going around about the Frank family's disappearance. The van Daans bring news of these rumors — which include an account of the family riding their bikes out of town as well as one that they were all taken away in a military vehicle in the middle of the night — when they join the Franks in the Secret Annex.

Anne spends much time describing the interpersonal relations between the people who live in the small hiding place. She is upset by the way the van Daans fight with one another in a way that she considers brutal. She also believes that the others pick on her because she is youngest in the group. Mrs. van Daan is constantly complaining because Anne talks too much, she also believes Anne is spoiled. Anne is additionally distressed because she feels she is misunderstood by her mother and older sister.

## Discussion Question 1

Why does Mrs. Frank leave a note with an address on it in their apartment when they leave? Why does Mrs. van Daan make such a big deal about getting rid of it when it is found?

## Discussion Question 2

How does Mrs. Frank react when Mrs. van Daan begins keeping communal things for herself?



## Discussion Question 3

Anne is surprised that the adults around her have more petty arguments than most children. Do you think that she is right in her assumptions? Why or why not?

## Vocabulary

Prospect, incriminating, obnoxious, lumbago, hypochondriac, communal, abominable, bungled, monotonous, piqued, contingent, incessant, ludicrous, appendage, surreptitiously, ruse, admonitions, tirades, interminable, barbaric, diffidence, tirade.



# Tuesday, September 29, 1942 – Thursday, November 19, 1942

## Summary

Tuesday, September 29, 1942 – Thursday, November 19, 1942

In her September 29th entry, Anne describes where each resident of the Annex has decided to take his bath. She also writes that a plumber had been working on the water lines. For three days they were not allowed to move around, talk or use the bathroom while this worker was in the building. In her October 1st entry the ringing doorbell causes Anne and the others to have a fright but they decide it must have been either pranksters or the mailman. She writes they have celebrated Mrs. van Daan's birthday and that she is irritated by the older lady's attempts to flirt with her father.

Anne's October 3rd entry she writes about how much she hates her mother. Although her father tells her she should volunteer to help her mother, Anne refuses to do so. In her October 7th entry, Anne imagines what she would buy if she had 150 guilders to buy with what she wanted.

In her October 9th entry, Anne writes of the way the Germans are hauling away her old friends to concentration camps. Anne and her family have heard reports on the radio that the people are being gassed. Miep is distraught because of the way the Germans are treating the Jews but feels unable to help because she is afraid that she will be punished as well. Anne no longer considers herself a German as Hitler took away their nationality long ago. She believes there are no bigger enemies than Jews and Germans.

In her October 14th entry, Anne reports she's reading a lot and enjoys shorthand. She Margot and her mother are also getting along better. She's also gained nineteen pounds since they moved into the Annex. In her October 20th entry, the residents of the Annex have another scare when a man comes to the office unexpectedly to fill the fire extinguishers. They believe he's trying to get into the Annex; but, it turns out it is only Mr. Kleiman trying to open the door, which is stuck.

Anne tells Kitty in her October 29th entry that her father is sick. They are not able to call a doctor. In her November 2nd entry, Anne writes that she believes that her period will start soon. In a note that she adds later, Anne indicates how childish she felt she was when she wrote her comments nearly one and a half years prior. She adds that she continues to miss her cat. On November 5th, Anne writes that the British are scoring some successes.

On November 9th the Annex residents celebrate Peter's 16th birthday. Mr. van Daan reports that the British have landed in Tunis, Algiers, Casablanca and Oran. They



believe it is the beginning of the end but the Prime Minister of Britain warns them it is nowhere near the end. The Franks and van Daans are buying food rations on the black market. It is also noted that Anne's father has recovered.

The residents of the Secret Annex decide to add an eighth person to their safe house on November 10th. The man, Albert Dussel, is a dentist. In her November 12th entry Anne writes that the dentist is waiting to get some records wrapped up before joining them in their hiding place. Anne believes his procrastination is stupid. In her November 17th entry Anne reports Mr. Dussel's surprise at finding the Franks alive and well in the Secret Annex. Anne also includes a tongue in cheek list of rules for life in the Annex. Anne reports to Kitty that Mr. Dussel is sharing the room with her as she writes her November 19th entry. Anne is moved by Mr. Dussel's reports of the women and children who are carried off by the German army each day. She feels lucky to be away from the turmoil but guilty at the same time.

## Analysis

At this point, the Franks have been in hiding for about three months. The residents try to go about life as usual as they celebrate both Mrs. van Daan and Peter's birthdays during the stretch of time from September 29th through November 19th. They have gotten two major scares during this time period. The first came when the doorbell rang early one morning. No one comes into the building, however, so it is assumed the ring was either pranksters or the mailman. Their second scare comes on the day that a man visits the office to refill fire extinguishers. They believe that they hear the man poking around the bookcase hiding the entrance to their Secret Annex but it turns out to be just one of the office workers trying to get a message to them. He is banging on the bookcase because the door is stuck.

Meanwhile the British begin to make some headway in the war. Although the residents of the Secret Annex want to believe that it is the beginning of the end of the war, the British Prime Minister warns the people in a radio broadcast, to which the residents listen for outside information, that the war is nowhere near an end. One area of concern for the hidden families is the threat of running out of food. Anne writes that the families are currently buying food ration coupons on the black market. They have also stored up a great deal of non-perishable foods in case a time comes when they cannot get these coupons.

Another worry is the lack of medical care while they are in hiding. Anne is worried about her father because he is sick and there is no way to confer with a doctor for medical advice without giving away their location. Anne's mother tends to her father as best she can with the supplies they have on hand. Luckily, Anne's father recovers. Note that one benefit of the families inviting a dentist to share their hiding place with them is that they will be guaranteed dental care. Anne notes that Mr. Dussel is asked to bring supplies to fill cavities with him when he comes to stay with them.



Anne also delves deeply into personal relationships between the residents of the Annex. She is particularly perplexed by the differences between herself, her mother and Margot. She continues to feel singled out for lectures and scolding as Margot seems perfect. The relationships between the Franks and van Daans are another focus of Anne's diary. She writes that she hates the way that Mrs. van Daan tries to flirt with her father.

Notice additionally the point of view that Anne takes toward the Germans. When she learns of the way that her fellow Germans are treating the Jews she is appalled by their behavior. However, she seems to believe that Hitler did them a favor by taking away their nationality therefore she doesn't have to consider herself one of these now hated people.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why is it so crucial that the residents of the Secret Annex be quiet at night?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Consider Anne's opinion of the Germans. Why is it that she believes the Germans and Jews are enemies? Is her point of view correct?

## **Discussion Question 3**

How is Anne like a normal teenager? In what ways is she different?

## **Vocabulary**

Prudish, improvised, calisthenics, paragon, inconceivable, lamentations, saboteurs, optimism, gluttons, refined.



# Friday, November 20, 1942 – Thursday March 25, 1943

## Summary

Friday, November 20, 1942 – Thursday March 25, 1943

In her November 20th entry, Anne writes that when Mr. Dussel arrives, he brings with him gruesome news of the way that the Jews are being tortured and killed. Anne writes on November 28th that the Secret Annex residents have exceeded their ration of electricity and have to cut back as a result. Anne spends the time after dark spying on her neighbors using a pair of binoculars.

In her entry on December 7th, Anne writes that even their Hanukah celebration is affected by the short supplies brought on by the war. They can leave their candles lit only 10 minutes because candles are so scarce. Miep and Bep do arrange for each resident to get a small gift for St. Nicholas Day. Mr. van Daan has used his sausage making skills to make bratwurst, sausages and mettwurst, Anne writes in her December 10th entry. Dussel has also started working on teeth. His first patient was Mrs. van Dann who is uncooperative.

For her December 13th entry, Anne sits looking out a slit in the curtains of the building's front office. She describes how dirty the children are. She also watches the dog that lives next door on the houseboat. On December 26th, Anne reports that each person is getting an extra quarter pound of butter for Christmas. Dussel, who is sharing the room with Anne, has taken to shushing her at night, just as Mrs. van Dann does during the day.

In her January 13th entry, Anne writes the residents of the Annex are helping out the office workers by filling powdered gravy packets. She has also learned there are people who are being taken from their homes at all hours of the day or night, even though the whole world has entered the war effort, Anne writes that the end is nowhere in sight. Anne vents some of the frustration she feels because of the way people react to her personality in her January 30th entry. Both group squabbles as well as some happy times are the topics of Anne's February 5th entry.

Anne writes in her February 27th entry that her father is expecting an invasion to come any day. Meanwhile, the people of the Netherlands are instructed by the bishops of their churches to stand up and fight for freedom. Anne notes, however, that the action comes too late to help the Jews. It is troubling to the residents of the Secret Annex that the building in which they are staying has been sold. Luckily the new owner does not push to see the Annex portions of the building. One of the main ideas of Anne's March 4th entry is that they remain scared of the warehouse workers. They are happy when a new worker comes who is not familiar with the building. Even the grocer, who suspects there



are people hiding in the office building, makes his deliveries when the warehouse workers aren't there so as not to raise any suspicions.

In her March 10th entry, Anne writes that she is so scared by the nightly gunfire that she often gets into bed with her father. Even her mother and Mrs. van Daan are scared by the sounds of fighting. They have rats in the attic, which the van Daans mistook for thieves upstairs. One day when returning from the loft, however, Peter is bitten by one of the rats. In her March 12th entry, Anne writes they have been eating a steady diet of beans. Their evening serving of bread has been cancelled. Mr. van Daan is frustrated because of a cigarette shortage. The families decide to start dipping into their stores of canned food. Anne has grown so much her shoes no longer fit her. In her March 18th entry Anne reports that Turkey has entered the war.

Anne reports in her March 19th entry that Turkey has not entered the war as had been rumored. She does write that thousand-guilder notes as well as five hundred guilder notes will lapse causing problems for black market vendors and Jews in hiding. Anne also notes the Dussel has been writing letters to his girlfriend, as well as some other people, an activity that is forbidden but Dussel insists on continuing. In her March 25th entry Anne describes how thieves strike the building causing them a scare.

## Analysis

Miep had stopped bringing news from the outside to the residents of the Annex because it seemed to upset them so badly to learn that friends or acquaintances had been captured by the Germans. When Mr. Dussel, the dentist, joins the group, they beg him for outside information. Anne is almost overwhelmed by the news of how many people have been captured. Sometimes Anne feels badly because she is happy in her hideout when so many Jews are being killed and tortured. She realizes, however, that it won't do her or anyone else any good to be sad and downcast all the time.

Notice how uneasy the residents of the Secret Annex are. In their fear, they mistake rats for thieves in the attic. In one instance of thieves, the residents of the Annex are surprised by strange noises in the warehouse area. The men are unable to find any burglars, but are worried that if someone were to check the building, they would find chairs in the private office grouped around the radio where they were listening to the news. The men again check things out and determine they haven't been discovered.

Among the dangers that the hidden Jews face include Dussel's insistence upon writing letters to his girlfriend as well as several other acquaintances. This method of correspondence is forbidden as the letters could be used to determine the Jews' hiding place.

Things continue to get worse as food shortages continue. Butter and margarine are in short supply. The families no longer get a serving of bread with their dinner. Things have gotten so scarce that they agree to begin dipping into their supply of canned food. Cigarettes are also in short supply, which makes Mr. van Daan grouchy.



## Discussion Question 1

Why would it be significant if Turkey were to join the war on England's side?

## Discussion Question 2

Discuss the reasons why it is so dangerous for Dussel to be writing letters to those on the outside. How might you handle this situation?

## Discussion Question 3

Why are the residents of the Secret Annex so afraid of the warehouse workers?

## Vocabulary

Taboo, rheumatism, incoherent, flailed, denounced, egotistical, infuriating, salvage, hordes, derision, insolent, antagonize, mediate, umpteenth, fatalistic, lenient, contradicts, veritable, adamant, resolute, advocate, saga, emancipation, compensate, repercussions.



# Saturday, March 27, 1943 – Thursday, July 29, 1943

## Summary

Saturday, March 27, 1943 – Thursday, July 29, 1943

In her March 27th entry, Anne writes of the way that a German bigwig has announced the “cleansing” days for parts of German occupied territories. She notes they refer to the people as if they were cockroaches or diseased cattle. Along with sickness among their friends, Anne writes in her April 1st entry that her father is frustrated that he is not able to be part of the talks about the new Opekta deliveries. He spends the morning listening with his ear to the floor. Margot and Anne spell him in the afternoon. In her April 2nd entry, Anne writes how hurt her mother is when Anne refuses to say her prayers with her mother. Anne believes it was just a matter of time before her mother realized she did not love her, as Anne had always felt her mother did not love her.

In her April 27th entry, Anne reports the residents of the Annex have been quarreling among themselves again. In addition to the County Clerk’s office, the Carlton Hotel and the German Officers’ Club has been destroyed in the fighting, Mr. Kleiman has told them. Anne writes that she hasn’t had a good night’s sleep in weeks because of the constant fighting. Food is even in shorter supply than before with only bread and coffee for breakfast and lettuce or spinach and rotting potatoes for lunch.

Dussel’s birthday comes the day before Anne’s May 1st entry. She writes that he gets a big bag of treats from his girlfriend. Anne notes they have discovered Dussel is hiding food in his cupboard. They believe this is terrible behavior after all they have done for him. Anne helps her mother wash her hair. They have no more shampoo and have to use a liquid cleanser. Their comb only has ten teeth left. In her next day’s entry, Anne writes that even with all its difficulties, she knows that her life is a paradise compared to the Jews who have found themselves in concentration camps. She does wonder with the way their possessions are so worn, old and outgrown, how they will ever be able to get back to the life they had before the war. On May 2nd Anne also reports the attitudes of some of the residents of the Secret Annex toward the war.

Anne talks about witnessing a dogfight in her May 18th entry. Four crew members of the plane had been seen sitting by the side of the road by the man who delivers milk to the family. They describe the death of the pilot and other crew-member. Anne wonders how they can have such a presence of mind after going through such an ordeal. They families are kept awake and afraid at night with the sounds of gunfire. Because she is unable to get comfort from her husband, Mrs. van Daan goes to Dussel who welcomes her into his bed.



In her June 13th entry, Anne copies the poem that her father wrote for her birthday. She says she has been spoiled for her birthday with a book about mythology and candy. Anne writes in her June 15th entry that Mr. Voskuijl has been told he has cancer. She wishes she could go and cheer him up. Another major blow is the requirement that they turn their radio over to the Germans. They will be getting a small one to replace their cabinet radio but Anne notes that the news from the radio is one thing that has kept their spirits up. Anne writes in her July 11th entry she is trying to behave her best to keep from being rebuked by her housemates. She also reports that her eyesight has gotten so bad that her mother has suggested she go to see an ophthalmologist. The safety of this trip is being considered. In preparation, Anne gets out her coat and tries it on but it is so small she can't even button it.

In her entry for July 13th, Anne writes about her disagreement with Dussel about the use of the room. Because Dussel is so uncooperative with her, Anne's father even speaks to him but Dussel still acts childishly about letting Anne have a fair amount of time in the room. Anne reports that the office building is broken into again in her July 16 entry. This time the burglars take coupons for 330 pounds of sugar along with some other money and checkbooks. Anne's July 19th entry tells of heavy bombing in North Amsterdam. In her July 23rd entry Anne writes about what the residents of the Secret Annex want to do once they are allowed to go outside again.

Anne writes in her July 26th entry that the bombings were heavy the day before with one raid just after lunch, another at dinner, then one that started late at night. The next morning they learn the news that Mussolini had resigned. They are holding out hope that the war will be over by the end of the year. In her July 29th entry, Anne again writes out of her fury after Mrs. van Daan has chided her for being brought up incorrectly.

## Analysis

One thing that stands out beyond their perilous situation is the hope that Anne conveys in her diary entries. She does not speak of if they will ever be free again but when they will be free again. In fact, Anne writes at one point that she wishes she knew when the end of their days there would come as she would start counting the days that she had left.

In their small space, the eight people with their different personalities and different habits begin to grate on the other person's nerves. Anne bickers with Dussel over use of their room. Mrs. van Daan continues to scold Anne for being badly brought up. It has been discovered that Mr. Voskuijl, who has helped them in hiding and brought stories of what is happening in the outside world, has cancer. Anne is distressed because she is not able to go and cheer up the man. Notice in their wish list of what they want to do when they are released from hiding, it is Anne's father wish to go and visit Mr. Voskuijl.

Meanwhile, the fighting has become severe in Amsterdam. Anne writes about the sound of the bombs and bombers flying overhead. Some are so close they shake the building. One night Mrs. van Daan believes their house has been hit and is on fire. The eight



Secret Annex residents are always tense and on edge when the air raid sirens warn them of possible skirmishes over their city. Meanwhile Anne is grieved by the thoughts of the dead and wounded.

At this point in her writing, Anne has been keeping her diary for one year. She is now fourteen. The families have also been in hiding for one entire year. Because Anne has grown so much, her coat does not even fit her any longer. She has even outgrown her shoes. As she has gotten older, she has gotten nearsighted; a condition over which her mother worries enough that it is suggested she should risk the dangers of the outside to see an eye doctor. After her first mention of the proposed trip to the doctor, Anne does not write about it again so it must be assumed that it was decided that was not a good idea.

## Discussion Question 1

Imagine hiding in just a few small rooms with a group of people with whom you do not get along very well. How might you handle your frustration? Do you think Anne handles her own temper well for a teen girl?

## Discussion Question 2

Research World War II. At this point in Anne's diary, how close is the family to the end of the war?

## Discussion Question 3

Why is it so significant that the family must give up their cabinet radio? What does this radio signify to them?

## Vocabulary

Contorted, clandestine, impertinent, accuracy, incensed, deluge, pedantic, indignant, allotment, tumultuous, veritable, tirade, harangue, egotistical, figuratively.



# Tuesday, August 3, 1943 – Friday, October 29, 1943

## Summary

Tuesday, August 3, 1943 – Friday, October 29, 1943

In her August 3rd entry, Anne reports that Dussel got angry with Mr. Kugler for turning in their radio as he was ordered. They'd also had three air raids that day. To make matters worse, Peter's cat has infected the Annex with fleas. They are also stiff from lack of movement and exercise.

Anne describes the group's nightly and early morning activities in her August 4th entry. In her August 5th entry, Anne writes about the lunchtime and afternoon activities. Anne says she's been writing a story in her August 7th entry. Her August 9th entry continues her description of daily activities in the Annex.

In her August 10th entry, Anne has decided that it would be best for her to talk to herself at dinner instead of talking out loud. She also notes they can't keep up with the time because the Westertoren bells have been taken and melted down for the war. She writes that Dussel has put them in danger by asking Miep to bring him a book on anti-Mussolini trade. She additionally details the arguments incited as they peel potatoes. On August 23rd Anne continues her description of the daily activities leading up to 8:30 a.m., a time when they had to be very quiet to keep the warehouse workers from hearing them.

In her September 10th entry, Anne writes that they have learned Italy has surrendered. She says it is the best news they have gotten from the war so far. Anne has bad news as well, Mr. Kleiman is going to the hospital for another operation on his stomach. In her September 16 entry, Anne writes the residents are becoming more touchy by the day. She is taking valerian to help with anxiety and depression. Mr. vann Maaren, who works in the warehouse, seems to be getting more suspicious about the Annex. In her September 29th entry Anne indicates that times are so bad that Mrs. van Daan got nothing but flowers, a few ration coupons, and a jar of jam. Meanwhile, Dussel is irritating and complains no one is friendly to him.

Anne feels there is a bomb about to drop with the van Daans. Anne writes in her October 17th entry that Mr. van Daan has lost the last of his money in the warehouse, where it was found by the workers. In her Oct. 29th entry Anne writes the van Daan's are having terrible arguments because they have no money. They have been forced to sell clothing to cover household expenses. Anne reports that the constant strain has caused her to have no appetite. She says she spends much of her time wandering around the house and sleeping.



## Analysis

Conditions continue to deteriorate in the Annex. The van Daans fight and use obscenities in their arguments. Mr. Frank is stressed because he is constantly called to resolve arguments. Mr. Dussel whines because he claims no one is friendly to him. Dussel seems to be putting the families at risk for being caught as he continues to do things he is not supposed to. His last escapade dealt with a book he'd asked Miep to get for him. Anne notes if Miep had been caught with the book, she would have gotten into trouble.

## Discussion Question 1

In what ways does Dussel put all of the residents of the Secret Annex in danger?

## Discussion Question 2

How are conditions in the Annex deteriorating? What effect is this deterioration having on Anne?

## Discussion Question 3

What do you find most interesting or unusual about the way the Annex residents spend their days? Why does this surprise you?

## Vocabulary

Invariably, profusely, instigator, coquettishly, substantial, deviates, tactic, tirade, tentatively, veritable, bolsters, capitulated, treachery, negotiate, annoyance, reconciliation, profanity.



# Saturday, October 30, 1943 – Sunday, January 2, 1944

## Summary

Saturday, October 30, 1943 – Sunday, January 2, 1944

In her October 30th entry, Anne writes about her relationship with her parents. She adores her father, but feels he doesn't really know her or love her for who she is. She feels that she doesn't love her mother because her mother has never been a mother to her. She longs to have someone with whom she can discuss her quandary concerning her relationship with her parents.

In her November 3rd entry, Anne writes of the little acts of carelessness that she sees beginning to happen in the Annex. She is afraid it is one of these acts that may give them away. Anne describes how her constant fear has left her depressed and afraid that her life will never be normal in her November 8th entry. In her November 11th entry Anne writes of accidentally throwing her fountain pen into the stove with some trash. She writes a story about the life of the pen. In her November 17th entry Anne writes that her mother was given a plant by Dussel in honor of his one-year anniversary there but that he gave Mrs. van Daan nothing, sparking off fighting between them. Bep, who helps them with cooking and shopping, will not be able to leave her house for six weeks because of an outbreak of diphtheria.

In her November 27th entry, Anne writes that she sees Hanneli, a friend from school, appear before her wearing rags and begging for her help. Anne suddenly understands how the girl felt. She feels badly because she was so mean to her. She wonders why some people are dying while she is safe. Anne promises herself never to forget the girl and to always pray for her. In her December 6th entry Anne describes the way she and her father write a verse for each person in the Annex as a gift for St. Nicholas Day. The verses are tucked inside a shoe belonging to the corresponding person and given to them as a gift.

Anne tells Kitty that she's had the flu in her December 22nd entry. She writes how terrible it is to be sick there as she has to try to fight her urge to cough. She wonders if any of the treatments that she went through really did her any good but reports that she is better now. Even with Hanukkah and Christmas, Anne reports that spirits are low in the Annex. Anne also alludes to a story her father told her the year before about a girl he once liked. She wishes now he would bring up the subject again so that she could show him that she understands what he is talking about.

In her December 27th entry, Anne writes about receiving her first Christmas gifts. In her December 29th entry, Anne is sad as she thinks about her deceased grandmother. She worries also about Hanneli. Anne decides that she is so fearful because she does not



have enough faith in God. Food is the center of disagreements in Anne's December 30th entry. Food continues to be divided unfairly, she writes. In her January 2nd entry Anne has read her old entries indicating those describing her anger toward her mother. She thinks how wrong she was to judge her mother so harshly. She believes she has matured but still can't find it in herself to love her mother as she feels she should.

## Analysis

Conditions continue to deteriorate in the Secret Annex as individual personalities clash. Dussel honors Anne's mother by giving her a gift on the one-year anniversary of the beginning of his time in the Secret Annex. He doesn't give Mrs. van Daan a gift, which sparks off an argument. It is not indicated if the slight was intentional or as a result of thoughtlessness but causes problems never the less. Although she has worked hard to keep the conditions in the Annex from discouraging her, Anne seems to be letting her situation get the best of her as she seems to be sinking into depression in her August 3rd entry.

Food conditions are becoming bad with food shortages. Sickness also keeps Bep, who helped out with shopping for the family is quarantined because of disease. Anne writes about having to rub their beans to remove the mold so they can be cooked and eaten. To make matters worse, Anne has begun having dreams of a girl she believes that she was cruel to while in school. She sees the girl wearing only rags and begging for help. She feels almost guilty because she is safe and relatively comfortable while so many are being tortured and abused. Anne feels a new sadness as she misses her grandmother who died just a year before she turned thirteen. Additionally, Anne has no one with whom she can discuss any of the problems she's having, like her conflict over her bad relationship with her mother, and get an unbiased opinion.

## Discussion Question 1

How has Anne's time in the Annex changed the way that she has matured? How has she had to handle her emotions and feelings differently than if she were a regular teenager?

## Discussion Question 2

What do Anne's dreams of Hanneli and her grandmother seem to mean?

## Discussion Question 3

How does Dussel make conditions worse in the Annex by his actions? Do you believe his slight of Mrs. van Daan was intentional?

## Vocabulary

Bode, contempt, articulate, perturbed, tempestuous, invariable, conversely, neurotic, implore, conjecture, alluded, condolences, reproach, foisted, pomaded, fondant, impasse, figuratively, mercurial, insolent.



# Thursday, January 6, 1944 – Thursday, February 3, 1944

## Summary

Thursday, January 6, 1944 – Thursday, February 3, 1944

In her first of two entries on January 6th, Anne writes about her realization that she wants her mother to be a mother, not a friend. She also writes about her fascination with her period and the female body. In a second January 6th entry, Anne writes that she is so lonely she has decided to try to get Peter to talk to her. In a January 7th entry Anne writes about her newly found affection for a boy on whom she'd had a crush during her earlier school years. Anne writes that she's been practicing ballet in her January 12th entry. She believes that Petel, the boy she liked in school, has been sent to her as a comforter. In her January 15th entry, Anne feels it is not productive to continue writing about the squabbles in her diary, but is frustrated with the people with whom she lives. Anne wonders if she will ever be the person whom she hopes to be in her January 19th entry.

Anne realizes that some of the family's problems with the van Daan's may have been caused by their unwillingness to deal with them openly instead of expecting the worst. She decides that she wants to start making up her own mind about things, not just mirroring her parents. In her January 24th entry, Anne and Peter has a conversation, over Peter showing Anne how he knows the cat is a tomcat. Anne is surprised how easy their conversation is. Anne describes how she is tormented by her housemates for her habit of studying movie stars. In her January 28th entry, Anne praises the bravery of the people who are helping them while they are in hiding. Anne writes of her sudden desire to be alone in her January 30th entry. She indicates her father has noticed her attitude has changed but she can't tell him what is bothering her.

Fear of what the Germans might do if the British invade Holland is forefront on everyone's mind. They worry first what will happen if the Germans flood the city, then worry what will happen to them if there are orders to evacuate the city. In her February 8th entry Anne writes she suddenly realizes how difficult her mother's marriage must be for her as she knows that she is not first in her husband's love. Even so, Anne still finds it hard to love her insensitive and critical mother.

## Analysis

Although she is the youngest of the Annex residents, Anne has realized that some of the problems faced by the adults come from their unwillingness to discuss their problems and work them out. Anne thinks that her parents would rather ignore problems and pretend they don't exist than discuss what can be done to correct the problems. She



makes a decision that she doesn't necessarily want to live the same way that her parents have done. She desires the freedom to make up her own mind about things. Because they live in such cramped quarters, it is impossible for Anne's father not to notice the ways in which his daughter is changing and maturing. Anne is worried about hurting his feelings because she doesn't want to talk to him about her changing views.

To add to the worries in the Secret Annex, there is the possibility that the British will invade Amsterdam. The eight in the Annex don't know what might happen to them if the residents of the city were forced to leave the city. If they leave their hiding place, they risk the chance of being arrested by the Germans. If they stay in the city, they risk the chance the Germans will flood the city perhaps causing damage to their building. Anne knows that if the city is invaded it will be safest for them to stay where they are. She wonders if perhaps they can even have some of the office staff stay with them.

## **Discussion Question 1**

How are Anne's feelings toward her mother changing as she gets older?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Why do the residents of the Annex worry what might happen if the British were to invade Amsterdam?

## **Discussion Question 3**

In what ways is Anne's attitude changing toward the people with whom she lives?

## **Vocabulary**

Tact, prudish, unrequited, ironically, pensive, impartial, deftly, ulterior, sauntered, respectable, imitate, monotonous, fare, embellishing, proverbial, elicited, banter, evacuate, contingent, propaganda.



# Tuesday, February 8, 1944 – Saturday, March 4, 1944

## Summary

Tuesday, February 8, 1944 – Saturday, March 4, 1944

In her February 8th entry, Anne tells about a longing within herself that she can't quite describe. Anne discovers a sense of camaraderie with Peter when he becomes short tempered with Dussel in her February 12th entry. In her February 14th entry, Anne writes that Dussel told Anne's mother Peter had apologized to her. When Anne asks Peter, he is angry and assures her he did not. In her February 16th entry Anne writes mostly about her developing friendship with Peter. Anne reads some of her writing to Mrs. van Daan and Peter, she writes in her February 17th entry. On February 18th, Anne writes because of her friendship with Peter, she now has something to which she can look forward. Although Anne denies in her February 19th entry that she is falling in love with Peter, she writes she is terribly disappointed when he does not speak to her as she wishes he would.

In her February 20th entry, Anne describes the cleaning routine the Annex residents follow on Sundays. Anne writes about how she finds solace in nature just from being in the attic and loft of the Annex where she can look out the window in her February 23rd entry. She also enjoys Peter's company while she is there. In her February 27th entry, Anne writes that she believes she and Peter have a kindred spirit as neither of them really has a good mother. Anne continues to write about her affection for Peter in her February 28th entry. She admits that Peter Schiff and Peter van Daan have melded into one person in her mind.

Anne writes in her March 1st entry that there has been another break-in at the building in which they are staying. In this one, they believe the burglar may have seen Mr. van Daan when he went to the office that evening. They are afraid because they think the burglar may have a key to the office. They are also afraid that the burglar may turn them in. In her March 1st entry, Anne finally breaks through to Peter and offers to help him in his awkward position with his parents. Anne and Peter continue to develop their relationship in Anne's March 3rd entry. Though she still doesn't believe she is in love, Anne admits that her moods are often determined by the way that Peter reacts to her. In her March 3rd entry Anne writes that Mrs. van Daan appears to approve of Anne and Peter new friendship but kids Anne, asking if she can trust the two of them alone.

## Analysis

Anne's depression is lifted as she develops a friendship with Peter, the van Daan's son. Anne is so desperate for human contact that she begins to take an interest in this boy



whom she had once believed was lazy. She sees the way the adults pick on Peter, just as they pick on Anne, and believes the two could be kindred spirits. She equates Peter van Daan with another boy named Peter who had attended her school. In a way she is fulfilling her need to be affectionate to the first Peter, whom she often dreams about, by being friendly with Peter van Daan.

The budding friendship lifts Anne's spirits and gives her something to think about other than the dangers they face in the Annex. There has been another break-in at the office building in which they are staying. This time, however, the residents are afraid the burglar may have seen Mr. van Daan as he went to the office, unaware a stranger was there. There is concern the burglar may report what he saw to the Germans.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why is it such a threat that a burglar in the office building might have seen Mr. van Daan?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Why is Anne's new friendship with Peter a good thing? In what ways might it not be good?

## **Discussion Question 3**

For what reasons does Anne feel a kinship with Peter?

## **Vocabulary**

Resolved, inferiority, amply, sages, dictating.



# Monday, March 6, 1944 – Monday, March 20, 1944

## Summary

Monday, March 6, 1944 – Monday, March 20, 1944

In her March 6th entry, Anne writes she feels responsible for being a friend to Peter now she's learned how deeply he's affected by his parents' arguments. Anne considers how much her life, her personality and her goals have changed since 1942 in her March 7th entry. Anne tells Kitty about the notes she and Margot write each other in her March 8 entry. In her March 10th entry Anne reports on the many bad things that are affecting the Annex. Miep is sick, the man who has been supplying them with potatoes has been arrested, and the families were scared by someone knocking on the wall next door.

In her March 11th entry, Anne reports of her torture over her fear that Peter doesn't feel for her as she does for him. In her March 12th entry Anne writes that she confides her jumbled thoughts and feelings to Kitty, but tries to maintain her composure around the family. Anne reports in her March 14th entry that since the people from whom they got their food ration coupons has been arrested, their stock of food has become pitiful. She reports on the adults' opinions of their situation which range from Mrs. van Daan who believes the Germans will win the war and fears they will starve to death to Mr. Frank who says he is satisfied with what he has and believes the war is progressing nicely.

In her March 16th entry, Anne writes they may have to spend a day in silence because all of the office workers might be out of the office all on the same day. In a second entry on March 16th Anne writes about going to the attic as a form of escape. She continues to worry whether Peter really likes her or not. In her March 17th entry, Anne writes they did not have to spend a day in silence as Bep did not have the flu and Mr. Kugler got excused from his work detail. She writes that she and Margot both are getting tired of their parents. In her March 18th entry, Anne writes about her scant knowledge of sex and her belief that parents should be upfront and honest with their children instead of just telling them bits and pieces about this process.

Anne writes in her March 19th entry the prior day was very important to her. She writes that she and Peter had a good long talk in which they learned a lot about one another. Anne reports that Peter told her that she helped him by always being cheerful, a compliment that pleased her. Anne writes the only bad aspect of her relationship with Peter is that she feels that Margot has liked him before Anne did in her March 20th entry. Margot sends her sister a letter telling her that she doesn't believe a relationship would have developed between herself and Peter. Anne replies, hoping that some of Margot's goodness will rub off on her.



## Analysis

Anne's March 7th entry is especially interesting as she looks back at the way that her life has changed and the way that she has changed since the family has gone into hiding. Although she thought she enjoyed her life before, Anne realizes how superficial she was. She was surrounded by people who liked her because she was happy and generous, but none who really knew her. Since she has been in hiding in the Secret Annex, Anne has been abused and tormented by the other adults who have criticized for first one thing, then another. Anne admits she first tried to please these people, but later realized she was unable to please everyone. She has realized that she must come to her own decisions about what is important to her and the direction that she wants her life to take. Of course, Anne's entry makes reference to her new desire for a boyfriend.

### Discussion Question 1

How has Anne's life and opinion of herself changed since she and her family has gone into hiding?

### Discussion Question 2

Consider Anne's belief that if a person is happy they can never die in misery. Do you believe this is true? Could things have become so miserable for Anne that she loses her happiness?

### Discussion Question 3

Why do Anne's entries get longer during this part of her diary? What does this indicate?

## Vocabulary

Feigned, rambunctious, magnanimous, superficial, irrevocable, melancholy, spindly, façade, impudent, tedious, regaled, harmonious, exuberance, reproach.



# Wednesday, March 22, 1944 – Thursday, April 6, 1944

## Summary

Wednesday, March 22, 1944 – Thursday, April 6, 1944

In her March 22rd entry, Anne copies the text of a letter from Margot encouraging her relationship with Peter. She shares with Kitty her belief that Peter really does care for her. In a return letter to Margot, Anne tells her she can come join them whenever she wishes. Anne reports the men who supplied their ration books have been released from jail so things are back to normal in that aspect in her March 23rd entry. She adds that a plane crashed near their house, killing a few people. The Germans shot at the plane's crew as they tried to parachute to safety. Anne writes also that she and Peter have a discussion about sex.

In her March 24th entry, Anne writes the van Daans and Dussel kid her about her visits to Peter's room. The parents have talked about an Annex wedding if the war lasts much longer. Anne again writes about the ways in which she has changed since her family first went into hiding. She strives to be truthful in her dealings with others. She also intends to be happy. Anne devotes her March 27th entry to politics. She says the adults talk about politics constantly and they are forever getting frustrated with the others' views. She adds the radio is now playing air raid warnings in addition to other news shows.

Anne finds herself in a difficult position in her March 28th letter as her mother had told her not to go back to Peter's room, claiming that it makes Mrs. van Daan jealous. She writes that Peter admired her dimples and told her she is pretty. In her March 29th entry, Anne writes the cabinet minister has begun to speak of collecting diaries after the war for the purpose of publication. In this entry, Anne writes about the food shortages, rampant thefts and short supplies in the city around them. Anne writes in her March 31st entry that many people are already out of coal even though it is still cold. She also mentions the Russians are making progress in the war but the Germans have taken over Hungary. The adults have additionally stopped interfering with her relationship with Peter. Even though their friendship is growing, Anne indicates that it is still hard in her April 1st entry.

Anne writes a detailed description of the food situation in Europe in her April 3rd entry. They go through cycles with only one thing to eat during a certain period. She says the highlight of their week is a slice of liverwurst and jam on their bread. In her April 5th entry Anne writes that she had nearly given up her desire to keep up with her school work as she would be so far behind other students if the war did not end by September. After having a good cry, Anne remembers her desire to be a writer and resolves to keep on working. In her April 6th entry Anne tells Kitty about her hobbies and interests which



include writing, genealogical charts, history, Greek and Roman mythology, movie stars, and family photographs.

## Analysis

This section includes what is probably the most significant of Anne's diary entries. In it she describes the call for diaries written during the time of the war. She writes that her desire to have her work published even though she feels others might have little interest in what she has written. Not only does this entry let Anne's father know that she wants her diary to be published, but it also gives Anne the opportunity to tell Kitty about her desire to be a writer. Anne's pronouncement of what she hopes to do with her life when she grows up is perhaps her most significant statement of hope. Even as bad as the war is, she believes that life will go on despite the danger that they are in. Anne admits that she considered given up on her school-work, as she will be behind her peers by two years if the war does not end by September. However, her resolve is reignited when she remembers her desire to be a writer. She most wants to be a journalist.

Through this section of the novel Anne's maturity is really beginning to develop in leaps and bounds. With the request for diaries from the war period, she sees her work not only as a pastime for herself but as a real opportunity to have her words published. She begins to take more of an interest not just in recording what is going on in her own mind but also the things that are happening around her. She writes about the adults' opinions on politics and their constant arguing. She also writes about what is happening in the city of Amsterdam as food gets scarce and burglaries and thefts more common.

## Discussion Question 1

Although Anne never got to grow up, or return to school, she did achieve her desire of being an acclaimed author. How do you think she might feel about the popularity of her diary if she were still alive today?

## Discussion Question 2

How is Peter and Anne's sharing of knowledge about sex similar to what children and teens do commonly even in modern times?

## Discussion Question 3

What prompts Anne's interest in the political factors around her?

## Vocabulary

Dastardly, witticism, candid, feigned, disparaging, blithely, goad.



# Tuesday, April 11, 1944 – Thursday, April 27, 1944

## Summary

Tuesday, April 11, 1944 – Thursday, April 27, 1944

In her April 11th entry, Anne writes on Sunday evening Peter had come in to tell Mr. Frank that he needed help with a difficult sentence in English. Anne recognizes the code language for a break in. The men go downstairs. The women hear a bang. About 15 minutes later, the men come upstairs telling them they have to be quiet with no lights on because the police are coming. A man and woman broke a panel out of the warehouse door then shone a light into the warehouse. The men run upstairs where they believe the couple has alerted the police. They sit quietly in the dark until 11:15 p.m. when they hear footsteps downstairs. Someone rattles the bookcase then footsteps walk away but a light remains lit on the landing. The group stays upstairs, trembling in fear. Jan and Meip finally arrive the following morning, getting the story on the burglary. They learn that it was the man who delivered their potatoes who had shined his flashlight into the warehouse, scaring Peter, Mr. Frank and Mr. van Daan so badly. After the scare had passed, Anne admits that was the closest call they'd had so far.

Annex residents are still on edge after their close call, Anne writes in her April 14th entry. As she jumps from idea to idea, Anne wonders if her diary would ever really be any good to anyone. Things seem to get worse in Anne's April 15th entry. Peter had forgotten to unbolt the front door causing the warehouse workers to have to break a window in order to get in. She reports the workers also saw the annex windows open, which caused suspicion. In her April 16th entry Anne writes that she had gotten her first kiss the day prior. In her April 17th entry Anne wonders if her family would think it proper the way she is carrying on with Peter. She also indicates the family heard sounds of a break in but that it was neighbors who were broken into, not them. In her April 18th entry, Anne and Peter have finally talked about girls. She feels dissatisfied just being held and wants to talk more.

In her April 19th entry, Anne writes that van Maaren, a worker in the warehouse, is believed to have stolen potato flour but is blaming the disappearance on Bep. Dussel is angry with Mr. van Daan, Anne writes in her April 25th entry. Members of the group have been told they can no longer prop their windows open at night and that they can't go downstairs after a certain time. Dussel says van Daan yelled at him about the window, which is why Dussel won't speak to him. Dussel is also balking at not being able to go downstairs any longer. In her April 27th entry Anne describes the subjects that she goes through in a day of studying.



## Analysis

The residents of the Annex have raised suspicions of a warehouse worker who came to work to find the door to the building bolted from the inside and the windows of the Annex open. Because of these raised suspicions Annex residents are warned to be extra careful but Dussel does not want to be cooperative with the new rules. One evening there is a break in and Anne feels as if she is at the end of her life. All of the residents are in terror for the entire evening until the office workers come to ease their minds the following morning.

In the same entry in which Anne describes their fear during the break in episode, Anne writes about her pride in her Jewish heritage. Anne wonders if they are being persecuted so that they can teach others in the world about goodness. Anne reminds herself in her diary God has never deserted the Jewish people, He has always helped them to survive despite their sufferings.

## Discussion Question 1

Why is it so dangerous for those in the Secret Annex for someone to break in? What might the burglar do that scares them most?

## Discussion Question 2

Describe Anne's feelings about the Jewish people. Might you have felt the same way if you were in her position or might you have resented being Jewish?

## Discussion Question 3

What seems to be Anne's biggest concern about her relationship with Peter?

## Vocabulary

Audacity, clarity, improvised, drivel, delicacy, pseudonym.



# Friday, April 28, 1944 – May 16, 1944

## Summary

Friday, April 28, 1944 – May 16, 1944

In her April 28th entry, Anne describes her overwhelming joy in her developing relationship with Peter. She has finally let Peter reach a part of her that few people have seen. She feels shell-shocked when she leaves Peter's room and goes directly to her family with no alone time for emotional adjustment. Although she cherishes the way Peter makes her feel, she knows that if he asked, she would not marry him because he is too immature and lacks confidence. In her May 2nd entry Peter agrees with Anne that she should tell her father they've decided to be a couple. Anne's father first tells her to be careful, then later suggests that she not take the relationship too seriously and that she be the one to set up boundaries. Anne additionally writes that the argument between Dussel and the van Daans has been reconciled and all of the residents have celebrated Dussel's birthday.

In her May 3rd entry, Anne writes the residents are taking a vacation from politics. She reports they are eating only a cup of hot cereal for breakfast, rotten lettuce, rotten potatoes and spinach. Although she wonders about the meaning of war and cruelty of humans, Anne considers her life in the Annex the beginning of a very interesting life. She feels their time in captivity is nearly over. In her May 5th entry Anne writes that her father has gotten angry with her for continuing to "neck" with Peter. She writes a letter to her father basically telling him to leave her and Peter alone.

In her May 6th entry, Anne writes that Margot has told her the letter upset their father very deeply. Anne's father talks to her about the letter in her May 7th entry. Although she believes what she said about her mother was truthful she was wrong to hurt her father in the way that she did. When Anne considers the way that her father forgives her, she becomes determined to improve herself. Anne outlines the parts of her family history that she knows in her May 8th entry. She outlines Dussel's bathroom timetable in her May 9th entry.

In her May 10th entry, the cat, Mouschi, pees on a pile of wood shavings beside her litter box in the attic. The urine runs through a crack in the floor into the potato bucket and onto the kitchen table. Anne finds the sight of Peter trying to clean up after his cat humorous. In her May 11th entry Anne writes about the uproar that ensues after Mrs. van Daan tries to cut Peter's hair. In a second May 11th entry Anne writes about all of the work that she has to do. She additionally indicates she wants to write a book about their time in the Secret Annex with her diary as the basis of the book. In her May 13th entry Anne writes they have celebrated her father's birthday and her mother and father's wedding anniversary. In her May 16th entry Anne includes a bit of dialogue between Mr. and Mrs. van Daan. She also lists what each family member is reading.



## Analysis

Anne upsets her father with a letter. The letter basically tells him to mind his own business when it comes to her relationship with Peter. She feels ashamed of herself when her father comes to her saying that he will forgive her for her lack of gratitude. Anne makes a vow to try to follow her father's example and become a better person.

Anne writes how scarce their food supply is becoming. They eat only a bit of hot cereal for breakfast, then spoiled or rotten lettuce and potatoes for other meals. Although she started her period, Anne writes she hasn't had a period for nearly two months, probably the result of malnutrition.

## Discussion Question 1

What does Anne's letter to her father and the resulting conflict with her father help her to realize about herself?

## Discussion Question 2

Why is it so dangerous for the people in the Secret Annex to be eating what they are eating? Why is it so difficult to get food that isn't rotten or spoiled?

## Discussion Question 3

How does Anne continue to keep her spirits up even as her life becomes more dismal?

## Vocabulary

Reconciled, metamorphosis, privation, admonitions, epistle, despicable, bourgeois, transgressors, paltry.



# Friday, May 19, 1944 – Friday, June 23, 1944

## Summary

Friday, May 19, 1944 – Friday, June 23, 1944

In her May 19th entry, Anne reports she was sick the day before. She also writes she's distanced herself some from Peter. A vase of carnations falls over destroying some of Anne's genealogy work and notebooks with water. Anne is so upset she begins speaking German but her family just laughs at her. She does laugh when she sees all of her papers hanging on clotheslines in the attic to dry. In her May 22nd entry, Anne writes there has still been no invasion. Anne has additionally learned that anti-Semitism has spread to people who once would never have felt that way. She is especially surprised that the Dutch are judging the Jews as harshly as they are.

In her May 25th entry, Anne records her feelings about Bep's announcement that she's engaged to Bertus, a man whom she doesn't love. In this same entry, Anne writes that Mr. van Hoeven and the two Jews he was hiding have been arrested. She mourns that good people like Mr. van Hoeven are being tortured and put in jail while cruel people rule their world. His arrest means there will be even less food in the Annex as he helped Bep with the potatoes. They have made up their minds that they must eat less. Anne writes that she is completely distraught in her May 26th entry. The endless tension has continued for two years. Now the pipes are clogged in the Annex and the residents can't run the water or flush the toilet. Miep sent raisin bread as a Pentecost gift, but the Annex residents feel that they are being mocked as they are anything but happy. She wonders what they might do if the police forced their way into the Annex but stops herself. She wonders if it might not have been better if they'd all died right away instead of trying to go into hiding. The heat that is melting their butter and souring their milk is the topic of Anne's May 31st entry.

In her June 2nd entry, Anne writes they should carry an umbrella when they go upstairs to keep from getting hit by showers of cat urine. Anne has also found she can relieve her fear of gunfire by running up and down the stairs. In her June 5 entry Anne writes that her family has been fighting with Dussel concerning the division of butter. Dussel, meanwhile, is flirting with Mrs. van Daan. Anne notes their moneybox is almost empty and wonders what they will live on in the future. The invasion finally begins on June 6th, Anne writes. BBC radio broadcasts predict that year will be the year of complete victory. In her June 9th entry, Anne writes the initial excitement has died down concerning the invasion but the fighting seems to be going well.

Anne records the things she received for her fifteenth birthday in her June 13th entry. She writes that those around her continue to criticize her. She additionally writes that she and Peter's relationship has become one of friendship and not so much of love. She



writes of the way she longs for nature. In the same entry, she indicates that she is upset by the way women are considered inferior to men. She believes they should be respected just as much as men. In her June 19th entry Anne writes that Mrs. van Daan is talking crazy about being caught and killed.

## Analysis

The British invasion begins in this section of Anne's diary with all of the residents of the Annex holding out hope that the end of the war will come soon and they will be liberated. Even with the new hope of liberation, Anne reports that anti-Semitism is spreading into Holland, the country she hoped would be her fatherland. She doesn't understand why the Dutch are treating the Jews as they are. Although she knows the Jews are sharing Christian secrets with the Germans, she believes the Dutch should consider that they would do the same thing if they were in the same position as the Jews.

Anne writes additionally about her distress about the way that women are treated. She believes that in keeping the human race alive, women often undergo more pain and agony even than soldiers on the battlefield. Anne believes that for what they go through, women should be given at least the same amount of respect and honor that men receive. She does think there will come a day when women are given the respect they deserve.

## Discussion Question 1

How does news of the invasion affect those in the Secret Annex?

## Discussion Question 2

Could Anne's views of the way women should be treated be considered feminist?

## Discussion Question 3

Consider Anne's opinions of the way the Jews are being treated by the Dutch. What do you think has brought about this change?

## Vocabulary

Strategical, adage, vanquished, permeate, capitulation, prodigy, beget, cynical, egotistical.



# Tuesday, June 27, 1944 – Tuesday, August 1, 1944

## Summary

Tuesday, June 27, 1944 – Tuesday, August 1, 1944

In her June 27th entry, Anne writes the invasion is going well. In her June 30th entry, Anne shows off her English skills and reports the invasion continues to go well. In her July 7th entry, Anne writes that Peter has begun to lean on her in a way that she finds uncomfortable. She believes Peter's problem is that he doesn't have a goal. She also thinks some of Peter's problem is his bad attitude toward religion. Anne believes it is a great gift to be able to believe in a higher power. The office and Annex residents have gotten twenty-four crates of strawberries. They've also gotten twenty pounds of peas.

Anne discusses the book "What Do You Think of the Modern Young Girl?" in her July 15th entry. She believes the book helps her to understand why she's had such a difficult time getting her father to understand the difficulties that she's been having. Anne writes that she feels badly about the way she treated Peter as a conquest. She admits she still does not understand him. In her July 21st entry, Anne writes she is finally getting optimistic about their situation. She indicates an assassination attempt has been made on Hitler's life by a German general. August 1st is Anne's last entry. She writes a description of herself as a bundle of contradictions.

## Analysis

Just as things are beginning to look up for those residing in the Secret Annex, Anne's diary ends as they are captured by German police. The arrests come just three days after Anne's August 1st journal entry. It was just a few days before her final entry that Anne admitted she was finally beginning to get optimistic about the invasion. Anne has additionally reported that a German military man has attempted to assassinate Hitler. To Anne, this means that even the people who once followed the man are beginning to realize his beliefs are faulty. It is this optimism plus some fresh food that seems to help uplift spirits in the Annex. Anne reports they received twenty-four crates of strawberries as well as twenty pounds of fresh peas.

Despite all that Anne has been through, she writes in her diary that she still believes that people are truly good at heart. This comes after she and her family have lived in cramped quarters for more than two years because one man has decided they are inferior because of their religious beliefs. Instead of fighting injustice, many other people have joined this one man in his desire to rid the area of Jews. Even after all the persecution and hardships that she has been through, Anne still believes that people are good.



## Discussion Question 1

Why does Anne write that she feels bad about her relationship with Peter?

## Discussion Question 2

What does Anne decide is the key problem with her relationship between herself and her father?

## Discussion Question 3

Why does Anne think that she is a “bundle of contradictions?”

## Vocabulary

Antidote, contingent, meticulous, monotony, adage, broach, contradiction, diversion, flippant.



# Characters

## Anne Frank

Anne Frank is the daughter of Edith and Otto Frank. She is the younger sister of Margot Frank whom Anne describes as being perfect: brilliant and obedient. Anne has just turned thirteen years old when she gets a diary for her birthday. Because she feels she does not have the one true friend whom she desires, she writes her journal in a form of letters to an imaginary girl named Kitty. Anne and her family are living in Holland during the time of Hitler's Nazi reign in Germany. Several years prior to Anne beginning her diary, the family had fled from Germany to Holland to escape Hitler's persecution of the Jews. However, these rules spread into Holland and Anne describes the way they, as a Jewish family, are not allowed to ride on public transportation or shop in certain stores just because of their religious beliefs. Shortly after Anne begins her diary, Sixteen year old Margot receives her call up papers to go to a Nazi work camp. The family had already planned to go into hiding, but their plans are pushed forward in an attempt to save their daughter.

Anne's diary details what life was like in hiding for herself, her family and the four other people who took refuge in the Secret Annex, a hidden set of rooms in Anne's father's former office building. It tells of the people who risked their own lives to help hide the families, get them food and supplies, and try to keep their spirits up while in hiding. Anne writes of the guilt she feels knowing her friends and schoolmates have been arrested and sent to concentration camps. She details air raids, the noise of guns and fighting in the night, and bombs being dropped. She writes of their fear of being found and holds out hope that they will survive until the war is over and she can pursue the career in journalism that she wants. Despite the persecution she and her family have endured Anne believes to the very end of her diary that people are truly good at heart. Anne's diary ends on Aug. 1, 1944. Information in the foreword of the book indicates the eight were arrested four days later. Anne died in a concentration camp sometime in early 1945. She was only fifteen.

## Otto "Pim" Frank

Otto Frank is Anne's father. He originally owned the business that operates out of the building in which his family and the van Daan family takes refuge. He arranges to sell his business to Mr. Kleiman and Mr. Kugler so they can run it while he is in hiding. Even though Frank no longer owns the business, he remains interested in its progress as is shown by his attempt to eavesdrop on conversations between the new owners of the business and a prospective customer through the floor of the Annex. Of all of her family members, Anne likes her father best. She feels that he is the only one who really understands her. Even though he understands her, however, Anne indicates her father often sides against her in favor of her mother and older sister. Otto Frank is the one who is responsible for deciding to publish Anne's diary. He is the only one of the eight people



hidden in the office building who survived the concentration camps. One of the secretaries who worked in the office found Anne's diaries after the hidden Jews were arrested and gave them to Frank.

## Edith Frank

Edith Frank is Otto Frank's wife and the mother of Margot and Anne. Anne's journal entries generally refer to her mother as a person who is not really a mother to her. She writes that her mother picks on her and treats her unfairly. Anne feels this unfair treatment is because she is not as intelligent as her sister, Margot. In her first diary entries Anne writes that she hates her mother with little reserve. She hurts her mother's feelings by refusing to say her nightly prayers with her and instead asking for her father. When Anne gets older, she feels guilty because she so freely accused her mother of not understanding her, yet did not take the time to get to know her mother either. She additionally feels bad because she knows that her mother was not her father's first love. Anne recognizes her mother loves her father much more than he loves her.

## Mrs. Petronella van Daan

Mrs. Petronella van Daan is the wife of Hermann van Dann and the father of Peter van Dann. She is described by Anne as being selfish, lazy, and whiney. Although Anne is not her daughter, Mrs. van Daan regularly comments on the way that Anne is being raised indicating that she is the result of bad parenting. Soon after they move into the Annex, Anne's mother realizes that Mrs. van Daan is hiding supplies that should have belonged to the entire group. Mrs. van Daan becomes extremely upset when her husband insists that she must sell her fancy clothes, including fur coats, in order for them to help pay their way in the Annex.

## Peter van Daan

Peter van Daan is the only son of Petronella and Hermann van Dann. When Anne first meets Peter he is nearly sixteen. She describes him as being shy and awkward and does not expect him to be much company. From Anne's descriptions, Peter is lazy. He rarely does any useful work. Despite her initial like for Peter, Anne develops a crush on the boy about a year and a half into their stay. While the adults joke about an Annex wedding, the relationship is intense but short lived. Anne finds Peter dependent and clingy which causes her to cool the relationship.

## Margot Frank

Margot Frank is Anne's older sister. She is the daughter of Edith and Otto Frank. It is because Margot gets her call up papers that the family rushes and goes into hiding from Hitler's army early. Margot and her sister are not close when they first come to live in the annex because Anne believes that her parents, particularly her mother, loves Margot



more. Margot is smart and well-behaved, while Anne is a mediocre student who talks too much and has a habit of speaking her mind. Anne describes Margot as being weak willed and passive.

## **Albert Dussel**

Albert Dussel is the dentist whom the van Daan and Frank families agree to allow to share their hiding space. Dussel takes Margot's space in Anne's room because space is so limited. Dussel and Anne but heads often with Dussel complaining about Anne's habit of talking continually while Anne is not allowed to have privacy in the room because Dussel believes his work is more important than Anne's. While in hiding, Dussel continues to send letters to his girlfriend, putting all eight residents of the Annex in risk. He often gets special supplies that he hoards and hides from the rest of the residents.

## **Miep Giles**

Miep Giles is the secretary for Opekta Works. She and fellow secretary Bep found Anne's diary after the family was captured. She keeps it and returns it to Anne's father when he returns from the concentration camp. She helps the family move supplies into the Secret Annex when they decide to move into the Annex early.

## **Mr. Hermann van Daan**

Hermann van Daan is the husband of Petronella and father of Peter. He is a friend of Otto Frank as well as a business partner. During their stay in the Secret Annex, Anne writes that she is constantly at loggerheads with Mr. van Daan who believes she has been raised poorly.

## **Bep Voskuil**

Bep Voskuil is the typist who works in the office building where Anne and her family are hiding. She is one of the group that helps the Frank family while in hiding. She buys groceries and supplies for the family. She arranges for the family members to take classes by correspondence. She additionally allows Margot and Anne to help with office work.

## **Mr. van Maaren**

Anne refers to Mr. van Maaren as "the man with the shady past." He works in the warehouse. The family fears he is becoming suspicious of their presence in the secret annex. It is suspected that van Maaren is stealing supplies stockpiled for the hidden family.



## **Mr. Kugler**

Mr. Kugler takes over the Gies & Co. portion of Otto Frank's business when the family goes into hiding. He is one of the group of people who helps get food and supplies for the family. It is Mr. Kugler's idea to have the bookcase built in front of the entrance to the Secret Annex to keep it more hidden.

## **Peter Schiff**

Peter Schiff is a boy who had attended school with Anne before the family went into hiding. Anne had a crush on Peter and sometimes associates him with Peter van Daan. She often dreams about Peter.

## **Mr. Kleiman**

Mr. Kleiman is the man who takes over Otto Frank's business Opekta when Frank prepares to take his family into hiding. He is one of the group that helps get food and supplies for the family. Kleiman is often hospitalized because of a bleeding stomach.



# Symbols and Symbolism

## Anne's Diary

Anne gets the original journal that she uses as a diary for her thirteenth birthday. Miep and Bep find the pages of her diary after Anne's family is captured by the Germans. They save the diary and give it to Anne's father who decides to follow Anne's wishes and have it published.

## Yellow Star

Jews in Germany are forced to wear a yellow star to distinguish them from non-Jews.

## Ration Coupons

In order to buy food and supplies, residents of Amsterdam are required to have government issued ration coupons. Because the Franks have gone into hiding they can no longer get their coupons legally and must buy them on the black market.

## Bookcase

In order to completely disguise the entrance to the Secret Annex, a bookcase is installed in front of the door.

## Prospectus and Guide to the Secret Annex

The Franks and van Daans put together this tongue in cheek list of rules and information about the Secret Annex for Albert Dussel when he joins them in their hiding place.

## Codeine

Codeine is the medicine that Annex residents are often given in order to quiet persistent coughs, especially when the noise of the coughing could cause the families to be discovered.

## Cabinet Radio

The residents of the Annex are upset when they are forced to give up the office's cabinet radio as they are ordered to do by the German police. The radio is the residents' one source of comfort and information from the outside world. Although the residents



are given a small radio to keep in the Annex, Anne writes it isn't the same as the cabinet radio.

## **Westertoren Bells**

When they first go into hiding in the Annex, Anne finds the chiming of the Westertoren Bells comforting. Additionally, the bells help them know what time it is. Unfortunately, the bells are melted down eventually for the war.

## **Valerian**

Valerian is an herb given to Anne by her mother in hopes that it will help with her anxiety and depression during their time of hiding.

## **Fountain Pen**

Anne's fountain pen is one of her most prized possessions. It is one of the things she brings with her to the Secret Annex. She is upset when she accidentally sweeps the pen in the stove with trash and it is burned.

## **Real Mocha Cake**

The ladies from the office made Anne's mother a real mocha cake, prewar quality, for her birthday.

## **Cinema and Theater Magazine**

Mr. Kugler brings Anne a copy of Cinema and Theater Magazine each Monday, helping her keep up with movies and the actors who starred in them.

## **Food Cycles**

Anne refers to what she calls "food cycles" in which the residents of the Annex have only a particular dish or vegetable to eat.

## **The Secret Annex**

The Secret Annex is the name the residents give to the rooms in which they reside during their time in hiding. Anne indicates she also wants to give the name of the book based on their time in hiding the title The Secret Annex.



# Settings

## The Secret Annex

The Secret Annex is a hidden portion of the office building where Otto Frank's business is housed. The four members of the Frank family, three van Daans and Albert Dussel live in this small space for nearly two and a half years in an attempt to hide from the German army. The majority of the novel takes place in this area.

## 263 Prinsengracht

263 Prinsengracht is the street address of Otto Frank's office building. It is inside this office building that the Secret Annex is located.

## Anne's Room

During their first weeks in the Secret Annex Anne shares a room with her sister, Margot. When Albert Dussel joins the hidden Jews, Anne and Dussel have arguments concerning who should get to use the room most often.

## The Kitchen

The kitchen of the Secret Annex doubles as the living quarters for the van Daan family. All of the residents of the Secret Annex eat and prepare their meals in this space.

## The Attic

The attic of the Annex has a window looking up into a tree. It is in this part of the Annex that Anne finds solace by being able to at least see the sky and some hints of nature from her hiding place.



# Themes and Motifs

## The War

Although Anne does not write much about politics as she says the topic is boring to her, Anne is in the position that she is in because of politics. Anne has grown up in the time period of World War II. Hitler's attempt to cleanse the world of Jews has caused worldwide fighting. Anne's family has already fled from Germany to take refuge in Holland. In Holland, Anne has witnessed increasing persecution, as Jews are not allowed to ride in cars or use public transportation. They are allowed to shop only in certain stores. Anne details this part of her life in her diary. She additionally details the fear and horror she feels when her older sister, Margot, gets her call up papers for a work camp. If Margot does not report for duty, the entire family will be arrested. Although Anne's father had already begun planning for the family to go into hiding, their plans to move are pushed forward.

Throughout their more than two years in hiding, Anne details the hardships they face including the scarcity of food, the constant fear of being discovered and stress of living in such cramped quarters. The news the hiding Jews hear from the people who are helping to care for them upsets them. They hear their friends are being arrested, tortured and killed as a result of Hitler's rules. The clandestine Jews additionally get news of the war through a cabinet radio that they eventually have to surrender to the German army. Anne's future and the futures of those with her depend solely on the outcome of the war. If the Germans are defeated and the Jews are liberated, Anne and her family have a chance of living a normal life again. If they are discovered and arrested, however, they stand the chance of being killed. Unfortunately, Anne, her family and those with them are discovered and arrested in August of 1944.

## Anne's Relationship with Her Mother

One theme that recurs throughout Anne's writing is the difficulty of her relationship with her mother. She believes that her mother loves Margot, her older sister, more than she love Anne. Anne sees similarities in her mother and sister that she believes keeps them closer and causes her to be pushed away. Although Anne sees her father as a kindred spirit, she also believes that her father takes sides with her mother and sister. Anne writes often that her mother picks on her and berates her even for small infractions.

During the early part of Anne's diary, it is apparent that she is deeply hurt by what she believes is her mother's attitude toward her. Even though her mother takes steps to try to get closer to Anne, Anne is not able to be untruthful to her mother and tells her she'd rather spend time with her father. As Anne gets older, she begins to realize that although her mother was always distant, Anne also did not make any effort to try to get to know her mother. While Anne realizes some of the trouble with her relationship with her mother was her fault, she still regards her mother as cold and distant.



## Anne's Belief in the Goodness of People

What is probably most outstanding about Anne is her belief in the goodness of people, even after all that she and her people have been through. She's experienced hunger and persecution. She has shared a very small living space with seven others. Yet, Anne still believes people are ultimately good at heart. Anne gets discouraged and depressed by her surroundings and circumstances; but, she always manages to put herself into a happy mood. At one point in her diary, Anne indicates that one of her most positive character traits is her happy personality. She believes that as long as she remains happy, she will never die in misery. In her diary, Anne finds humor in things ranging from the cat's urine leaking through to ceiling onto the dining room table, the destruction of some of her papers during an accidental water spill and her attempts to keep herself calm during bombings and burglaries.

# Styles

## Point of View

Since the book is in the form of a diary, it should be no surprise that it is written from the first person point of view. The words are Anne's descriptions of what she is thinking and feeling as if she were writing to a best friend. Since the diary is written in the words of a girl who grows from the age of thirteen to fifteen while writing the diary, the reader will notice an emotional growth in her thoughts and ideas. In a few places in her diary Anne adds notes to the entries that she wrote in the past commenting that she cannot believe she was so immature or immodest to write about some of the things that she had discussed. Anne additionally tells the things that are happening in the world around her and her own little world of the Secret Annex as she understands them. Although Anne seems very mature for her age, her thoughts and memories are biased by her own opinions and favoritism, as would any person's when writing a journal.

Anne tells her story through exposition, including very little dialogue though she will paraphrase what others have said to her and their responses. In some places, such as her May 16, 1944 entry, Anne writes exact quotes from a discussion between Mr. and Mrs. van Daan about the progress of the war.

## Language and Meaning

Anne's writing is very informal as she is writing her diary as if she is writing to a best friend who is her age. While the foreword to the book indicates the text of the diary has been changed very little from Anne's original words, it should be taken into consideration that Anne did not write in English. She wrote her diary in her native language of Dutch. The diaries were translated into English later. While this translation may not make a great deal of change in the content of Anne's diary, there are always nuances and meanings in language lost in the translation of any language to another.

## Structure

Anne's diary is written in the form of a series of letters to a fictional girl of Anne's age named Kitty. Anne imagines that Kitty is her best friend, a person in whom she can confide anything. Each entry follows the form of a letter with a date, salutation, and closing.

Anne begins her diary on June 12, 1942, when she receives the book as a gift on her thirteenth birthday. She continues until August 1, 1944, just a few days before she and the other residents of the Secret Annex are discovered and arrested. Anne does not write in her diary every day. Sometimes a few days or even weeks go by when she indicates nothing worth writing about has happened at the Annex.



## Quotes

Not only because I've never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl.

-- Anne (Saturday, June 20, 1942 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** In one of her first diary entries Anne writes she doubts anyone would be interested in what she has to say about her life. This quote is ironic as Anne's diary is one of the most widely read books about Jewish discrimination during the time of the Holocaust.

The Annex is an ideal place to hide in. It may be damp and lopsided, but there's probably not a more comfortable hiding place in all of Amsterdam. No, in all of Holland.

-- Anne (Saturday, July 11, 1942 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** Anne is always an optimist as she notes that her family's hiding place, even with all of its faults, it probably the best in the country.

Of course, we can't ever look out the window or go outside. And we have to be quiet so the people downstairs can't hear us.

-- Anne (Saturday, July 11, 1942 paragraph 7)

**Importance:** One of the major rules of the Annex is that no one can see them or hear them so as to keep them from having suspicions there are people hiding. Even a raised corner of a curtain could give away the clandestine Jews.

Today I have nothing but dismal and depressing news to report. Our many Jewish friends and acquaintances are being taken away in droves. The Gestapo is treating them very roughly and transporting them in cattle cars to Westerbork, the big camp in Drenthe to which they're sending all the Jews.

-- Anne (Friday, October 9, 1942 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** Although they are in hiding, Anne and her family still get news from outsiders. They know that not all Jews have the benefit of a secure hiding place. Many are being taken away to concentration camps where they are tortured and killed.

Fine specimens of humanity, those Germans, and to think I'm actually one of them! No, that's not true, Hitler took away our nationality long ago.

-- Anne (Friday, October 9, 1942 paragraph 6)

**Importance:** Anne is offended when she considers that she is a German like the others who are so cruel to the Jews. She remembers, however, Hitler even took away her nationality.



You may laugh, but these things aren't so easy in a hiding place. During the daytime we can't make any noise that might be heard downstairs, and when someone else is there, like the cleaning lady, we have to be extra careful. I patiently explained all this to Mr. Dussel, but I was surprised to see how slow he is to catch on.

-- Anne (Thursday, November 19, 1942 paragraph 2)

**Importance:** After their new resident, Mr. Dussel, joins the Secret Annex, Anne tries to help him understand how their safety is dependent upon following certain rules, like being quiet. Anne is disturbed because Mr. Dussel seems slow in understanding and following these rules.

In bed at night, as I ponder my many sins and exaggerated shortcomings, I get so confused by the sheer amount of things I have to consider that I either laugh or cry, depending on my mood.

-- Anne (Saturday, November 28, 1942 paragraph 5)

**Importance:** Anne often writes about the way that she is overwhelmed by the way she is continually criticized and admonished by the other residents of the Annex.

According to the newspaper, everyone is entitled to half a pound, but they mean those lucky souls who get their ration books from the government, not Jews in hiding like us who can only afford to buy four rather than eight ration books on the black market.

-- Anne (Tuesday, December 26, 1942 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** Anne writes that because they are in hiding and must buy their ration books on the black market, they will not get the extra butter allotment promised by the government.

Families are torn apart; men, women and children are separated. Children come home from school to find that their parents have disappeared. Women return from shopping to find their houses sealed, their families gone.

-- Anne (Wednesday, January 13, 1943 paragraph 3)

**Importance:** Anne details in her diary what she hears concerning what the German army is doing to Jewish families.

Everyone thinks I'm showing off when I talk, ridiculous when I'm silent, insolent when I answer, cunning when I have a good idea, lazy when I'm tired, selfish when I eat one bite more than I should, stupid, cowardly, calculating, etc., etc. All day long I hear nothing but what an exasperating child I am, and although I laugh it off and pretend not to mind, I do mind. I wish I could ask God to give me another personality, one that doesn't antagonize everyone.

-- Anne (Saturday, January 30, 1943 paragraph 2)

**Importance:** Just as a typical teenager might do, Anne focuses on the way those around her seem to criticize her regardless of the way she acts. The talkative,



opinionated Anne wishes that she could have a different personality that doesn't make others angry.

The province of Utrecht will be cleansed of Jews [as if they were cockroaches] between April 1 and May 1, and the provinces of North and South Holland between May 1 and June 1.' These poor people are being shipped off to filthy slaughterhouses like a herd of sick and neglected cattle.

-- Anne (Saturday, March 27, 1943 paragraph 3)

**Importance:** As Anne learns the plans that the Germans have for the Jewish people, she is angered and sickened by the way that her people are being treated.

We don't know how many people are actually in hiding; of course, the number is relatively small compared to the general population, but later on we'll no doubt be astonished at how many good people in Holland were willing to take Jews and Christians, with or without money, into their homes.

-- Anne (Sunday, May 2, 1943 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** Anne and the others who are hiding in the Secret Annex wonder how many other Jews are being protected, just as they are, by others who are willing to go against the orders of the German army and risk their own imprisonment to help others.

It's true: as the reports from outside grow worse and worse, the radio, with its wondrous voice, helps us not to lose heart and to keep telling ourselves, 'Cheer up, keep your spirits high, things are bound to get better!

-- Anne (Tuesday, June 15, 1943 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** When the members of the Secret Annex are faced with having to give up their cabinet radio, Anne records in her diary how much the radio and the news that it brought had helped raise spirits of she and her friends.

I was beside myself with rage, and if I only knew how much longer we had to put up with each other's company, I'd start counting the days.

-- Anne (Thursday, July 29, 1943 paragraph 6)

**Importance:** Tempers often grow short with eight people living in their cramped quarters. Here, Anne indicates she wished she had a count of how much longer she'd have to put up with the others.

I wander from room to room, climb up and down the stairs and feel like a songbird whose wings have been ripped off and who keeps hurling itself against the bars of its dark cage. 'Let me out, where there's fresh air and laughter!' a voice within me cries.

-- Anne (Friday, October 29, 1943 paragraph 5)

**Importance:** Anne describes her feelings of claustrophobia in terms of a caged bird.



I simply can't imagine the world will ever be normal again for us.  
-- Anne (Monday evening, November 8, 1943 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** Although it may seem obvious to the reader that Anne's world will never be normal if she and her family survive, this is a very astute observation on the part of a teenager who probably wants nothing other than to go back to her life as it was before she had to go into hiding.

I was furious at Mother (and still am a lot of the time). It's true, she didn't understand me, but I didn't understand her either.  
-- Anne (Sunday, January 2, 1944 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** This realization seems to be a turning point in Anne's relationship with her mother as she realizes she didn't understand her mother any more than her mother understood her.

It's funny, but I can sometimes see myself as others see me. I take a leisurely look at the person called "Anne Frank" and browse through the pages of her life as though she were a stranger.  
-- Anne (Wednesday, January 12, 1944 paragraph 6)

**Importance:** Anne writes of being able to read back through her diary as if she were reading the thoughts of another person.

The war is going to go on despite our quarrels and our longing for freedom and fresh air, so we should try to make the best of our stay here.  
-- Anne (Saturday, January 15, 1944 paragraph 5)

**Importance:** Anne realizes that no matter how awful their lives in hiding are, they would be in much worse shape if they were in the hands of the Germans. She is intelligent and mature enough to realize that as long as the war is still going on, they are better off in hiding regardless of how difficult that life is.

The best example of this is our own helpers, who have managed to pull us through so far and will hopefully bring us safely to shore, because otherwise they'll find themselves sharing the fate of those they're trying to protect.  
-- Anne (Friday, January 28, 1944 paragraph 6)

**Importance:** Anne writes in honor of those who are risking their own lives in an attempt to keep the Franks, van Daans and Dussel safe. She knows that if they are caught, those who have helped them in hiding will probably be taken to concentration camps as well.

A person who's happy will make others happy; a person who has courage and faith will never die in misery!  
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**Importance:** Anne believes that her happy nature will carry her through any unpleasantness the world may throw her way. It is sad knowing Anne died in a concentration camp just about a year after she wrote these words.

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God has never deserted our people. Through the ages Jews have had to suffer, but through the ages they've gone on living, and the centuries of suffering have only made them stronger.

-- Anne (Tuesday, April 11, 1944 paragraph 46)

**Importance:** Despite the persecution her people are enduring, Anne's faith in God remains steadfast. She believes these hard times, like those in the Jewish history, will only make her people stronger.

It's being said in underground circles that the German Jews who immigrated to Holland before the war and have now been sent to Poland shouldn't be allowed to return here. They were granted the right to asylum in Holland, but once Hitler is gone, they should go back to Germany.

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**Importance:** Anne includes this bit of news she has heard about the uncertainty of the future for Jews who have immigrated out of Germany to avoid prosecution and death. It



is rumored that the Jews in Poland will not be allowed to return to Holland but must instead go back to Germany.

The police forced the door there; they could just as easily do that here too! What will we do if we're ever ... no, I mustn't write that down.

-- Anne (Friday, May 26, 1944 paragraph 6)

**Importance:** As Anne thinks about a Jewish family that was discovered and arrested by the Germans she wonders if the same thing might happen to her family. She quickly writes that she can't write about the possibility they might be caught.

How noble and good everyone could be if, at the end of each day, they were to review their own behavior and weigh up the rights and wrongs. They would automatically try to do better at the start of each new day and, after a while, would certainly accomplish a great deal.

-- Anne (Thursday, July 6, 1944 paragraph 9)

**Importance:** Anne believes that if everyone were to think back over what they done during the day and evaluate their actions, they would be able to improve themselves day by day.

It's twice as hard for us young people to hold on to our opinions at a time when ideals are being shattered and destroyed, when the worst side of human nature predominates, when everyone has come to doubt truth, justice and God.

-- Anne (Saturday, July 15, 1944 paragraph 11)

**Importance:** Anne comments on difficulty that she, Peter and Margot are having trying to hold onto the ideas their parents have taught them in the past, especially since their parents are beginning to doubt the actuality of what they have taught their children.

I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart.

-- Anne (Saturday, July 15, 1944 paragraph 11)

**Importance:** In one of her final entries before she and her family are found and captured by the Germans, despite all of the cruelty she has seen and been exposed to, Anne still believes in the goodness of mankind.

Quote 30

You may laugh, but these things aren't so easy in a hiding place. During the daytime we can't make any noise that might be heard downstairs, and when someone else is there, like the cleaning lady, we have to be extra careful. I patiently explained all this to Mr. Dussel, but I was surprised to see how slow he is to catch on.

-- Anne (Thursday, November 19, 1942 paragraph 2)

**Importance:** After their new resident, Mr. Dussel, joins the Secret Annex, Anne tries to help him understand how their safety is dependent upon following certain rules, like



being quiet. Anne is disturbed because Mr. Dussel seems slow in understanding and following these rules.

Fine specimens of humanity, those Germans, and to think I'm actually one of them! No, that's not true, Hitler took away our nationality long ago.

-- Anne (Friday, October 9, 1942 paragraph 6)

**Importance:** Anne is offended when she considers that she is a German like the others who are so cruel to the Jews. She remembers, however, Hitler even took away her nationality.

Today I have nothing but dismal and depressing news to report. Our many Jewish friends and acquaintances are being taken away in droves. The Gestapo is treating them very roughly and transporting them in cattle cars to Westerbork, the big camp in Drenthe to which they're sending all the Jews.

-- Anne (Friday, October 9, 1942 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** Although they are in hiding, Anne and her family still get news from outsiders. They know that not all Jews have the benefit of a secure hiding place. Many are being taken away to concentration camps where they are tortured and killed.

Of course, we can't ever look out the window or go outside. And we have to be quiet so the people downstairs can't hear us.

-- Anne (Saturday, July 11, 1942 paragraph 7)

**Importance:** One of the major rules of the Annex is that no one can see them or hear them so as to keep them from having suspicions there are people hiding. Even a raised corner of a curtain could give away the clandestine Jews.

The Annex is an ideal place to hide in. It may be damp and lopsided, but there's probably not a more comfortable hiding place in all of Amsterdam. No, in all of Holland.

-- Anne (Saturday, July 11, 1942 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** Anne is always an optimist as she notes that her family's hiding place, even with all of its faults, it probably the best in the country.

Not only because I've never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl.

-- Anne (Saturday, June 20, 1942 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** In one of her first diary entries Anne writes she doubts anyone would be interested in what she has to say about her life. This quote is ironic as Anne's diary is one of the most widely read books about Jewish discrimination during the time of the Holocaust.



In bed at night, as I ponder my many sins and exaggerated shortcomings, I get so confused by the sheer amount of things I have to consider that I either laugh or cry, depending on my mood.

-- Anne (Saturday, November 28, 1942 paragraph 5)

**Importance:** Anne often writes about the way that she is overwhelmed by the way she is continually criticized and admonished by the other residents of the Annex.

According to the newspaper, everyone is entitled to half a pound, but they mean those lucky souls who get their ration books from the government, not Jews in hiding like us who can only afford to buy four rather than eight ration books on the black market.

-- Anne (Tuesday, December 26, 1942 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** Anne writes that because they are in hiding and must buy their ration books on the black market, they will not get the extra butter allotment promised by the government.

Families are torn apart; men, women and children are separated. Children come home from school to find that their parents have disappeared. Women return from shopping to find their houses sealed, their families gone.

-- Anne (Wednesday, January 13, 1943 paragraph 3)

**Importance:** Anne details in her diary what she hears concerning what the German army is doing to Jewish families.

Everyone thinks I'm showing off when I talk, ridiculous when I'm silent, insolent when I answer, cunning when I have a good idea, lazy when I'm tired, selfish when I eat one bite more than I should, stupid, cowardly, calculating, etc., etc. All day long I hear nothing but what an exasperating child I am, and although I laugh it off and pretend not to mind, I do mind. I wish I could ask God to give me another personality, one that doesn't antagonize everyone.

-- Anne (Saturday, January 30, 1943 paragraph 2)

**Importance:** Just as a typical teenager might do, Anne focuses on the way those around her seem to criticize her regardless of the way she acts. The talkative, opinionated Anne wishes that she could have a different personality that doesn't make others angry.

The province of Utrecht will be cleansed of Jews [as if they were cockroaches] between April 1 and May 1, and the provinces of North and South Holland between May 1 and June 1.' These poor people are being shipped off to filthy slaughterhouses like a herd of sick and neglected cattle.

-- Anne (Saturday, March 27, 1943 paragraph 3)

**Importance:** As Anne learns the plans that the Germans have for the Jewish people, she is angered and sickened by the way that her people are being treated.



We don't know how many people are actually in hiding; of course, the number is relatively small compared to the general population, but later on we'll no doubt be astonished at how many good people in Holland were willing to take Jews and Christians, with or without money, into their homes.

-- Anne (Sunday, May 2, 1943 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** Anne and the others who are hiding in the Secret Annex wonder how many other Jews are being protected, just as they are, by others who are willing to go against the orders of the German army and risk of their own imprisonment to help others.

It's twice as hard for us young people to hold on to our opinions at a time when ideals are being shattered and destroyed, when the worst side of human nature predominates, when everyone has come to doubt truth, justice and God.

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**Importance:** Anne comments on difficulty that she, Peter and Margot are having trying to hold onto the ideas their parents have taught them in the past, especially since their parents are beginning to doubt the actuality of what they have taught their children.

How noble and good everyone could be if, at the end of each day, they were to review their own behavior and weigh up the rights and wrongs. They would automatically try to do better at the start of each new day and, after a while, would certainly accomplish a great deal.

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sharing the fate of those they're trying to protect.  
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**Importance:** Anne writes in honor of those who are risking their own lives in an attempt to keep the Franks, van Daans and Dussel safe. She knows that if they are caught, those who have helped them in hiding will probably be taken to concentration camps as well.

The war is going to go on despite our quarrels and our longing for freedom and fresh air, so we should try to make the best of our stay here.  
-- Anne (Saturday, January 15, 1944 paragraph 5)

**Importance:** Anne realizes that no matter how awful their lives in hiding are, they would be in much worse shape if they were in the hands of the Germans. She is intelligent and mature enough to realize that as long as the war is still going on, they are better off in hiding regardless of how difficult that life is.

It's funny, but I can sometimes see myself as others see me. I take a leisurely look at the person called "Anne Frank" and browse through the pages of her life as though she were a stranger.  
-- Anne (Wednesday, January 12, 1944 paragraph 6)

**Importance:** Anne writes of being able to read back through her diary as if she were reading the thoughts of another person.

I was furious at Mother (and still am a lot of the time). It's true, she didn't understand me, but I didn't understand her either.  
-- Anne (Sunday, January 2, 1944 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** This realization seems to be a turning point in Anne's relationship with her mother as she realizes she didn't understand her mother any more than her mother understood her.

I simply can't imagine the world will ever be normal again for us.  
-- Anne (Monday evening, November 8, 1943 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** Although it may seem obvious to the reader that Anne's world will never be normal if she and her family survive, this is a very astute observation on the part of a teenager who probably wants nothing other than to go back to her life as it was before she had to go into hiding.

I wander from room to room, climb up and down the stairs and feel like a songbird whose wings have been ripped off and who keeps hurling itself against the bars of its dark cage. 'Let me out, where there's fresh air and laughter!' a voice within me cries.  
-- Anne (Friday, October 29, 1943 paragraph 5)

**Importance:** Anne describes her feelings of claustrophobia in terms of a caged bird.



I was beside myself with rage, and if I only knew how much longer we had to put up with each other's company, I'd start counting the days.

-- Anne (Thursday, July 29, 1943 paragraph 6)

**Importance:** Tempers often grow short with eight people living in their cramped quarters. Here, Anne indicates she wished she had a count of how much longer she'd have to put up with the others.

It's true: as the reports from outside grow worse and worse, the radio, with its wondrous voice, helps us not to lose heart and to keep telling ourselves, 'Cheer up, keep your spirits high, things are bound to get better!

-- Anne (Tuesday, June 15, 1943 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** When the members of the Secret Annex are faced with having to give up their cabinet radio, Anne records in her diary how much the radio and the news that it brought had helped raise spirits of she and her friends.