

Reflections:

A Student Response Journal for...

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

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Item No. 201712

Anne Frank

The Diary of a Young Girl

1942

1. Sunday, 14 June, 1942
Young Anne must try to contain her curiosity until seven o'clock when she is permitted to open her birthday presents. Write about a time in your life when you were bursting with excitement, but were forced to watch the clock and wait.
2. Monday, 15 June, 1942
Anne's mother teases her by asking questions like who she is going to marry. What embarrassing questions do your parents repeatedly ask you concerning your friends or your future?
3. Saturday, 20 June, 1942
Anne names her diary Kitty and plans to treat it as her closest friend. She writes that "paper is more patient than man." Why do you suppose that despite the richness of her family life and her many classmates, Anne still longs for a "real" friend?
4. Saturday, 20 June, 1942
Ann mentions the Anti-Jewish decrees: "Jews must wear a yellow star, Jews must hand in their bicycles, Jews are banned from trams and are forbidden to drive. Jews are only allowed to do their shopping between three and five o'clock...Jews must be indoors by eight...Jews are forbidden to visit theaters...Jews may not take part in public sports...and many more restrictions." Consider how you might feel if any of these restrictions were placed on your life. Select one and briefly describe the impact it might have on your life if it were to become law.

Response Journal

5. Sunday, 21 June, 1942
Mr. Keptor tries to stop Anne's chattering in school by assigning her an essay to write titled, "A Chatterbox." Anne's essay is so delightful and funny that Mr. Keptor can't help but laugh at Anne's work. Write about a time you or someone you know was punished by a teacher but in the end won the teacher's approval.

6. Wednesday, 24 June, 1942
Because of the Anti-Jewish decrees, Anne must walk everywhere. Anne appreciates the tram, now that she is not permitted to ride it. Describe an experience in your life where you learned to appreciate a convenience only after that convenience was taken away.

7. Tuesday, 30 June, 1942
Zionism was a movement for re-establishing the Jewish national state in Palestine. Harry is sixteen and defies his grandparents by continuing to see Anne and by attending Zionist meetings. At thirteen, Anne is flattered by Harry's attentions, but seems to still be interested in Peter Wessel. Write a letter to a friend explaining how you would deal with this confusing situation.

8. Friday, 3 July, 1942
Harry confides to Anne's friend Eva that he likes Anne better than he likes Fanny, but he tells Eva, "don't tell a soul." Since Anne is writing about the conversation, we can infer that Eva immediately told Anne. We can also assume that Harry really wanted Eva to tell Anne how he feels despite his admonition to Eva to keep quiet. Write about a time when someone told you something in confidence, yet you knew he or she really wanted you to pass the information on to the right person.

9. Sunday morning, 5 July, 1942
On a walk with her father and sister, Anne is reminded that her family are preparing to go into hiding to keep from being seized by the Germans. How do you suppose Anne feels about going into hiding? Do you believe she is capable of understanding the full impact going into hiding will have on her life?

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10. Wednesday, 8 July, 1942
Anne must pack her most “vital belongings” into a school satchel. If you were forced to pack quickly and could only fill a small school bag, what items would you consider “vital belongings”?
11. Thursday, 9 July, 1942
On the road to the “Secret Annexe,” Anne’s parents begin to reveal bits and pieces of the plan to her. Anne’s parents and the Van Daans had been preparing to go into hiding for months, while Anne went to school and maintained a normal life. Consider for a moment that your family were preparing for a major change in your lives such as moving to another state, but excluded you from the preparations and decisions until the last moment. How do you think you might feel?
12. Friday, 10 July, 1942
Anne works alongside her father to clean up their new rooms in the Annexe. She seems to relate more to her father than she does to her mother or sister. Which of your family members would you feel the most comfortable working next to all day long? Why?
13. Saturday, 11 July, 1942
Anne tries to make her room more cheerful with pictures of film stars and postcards. Describe the ways you might try to make the Secret Annexe more attractive.
14. Friday, 14 August, 1942
The Franks’ friends and neighbors not only believe the story that the Franks are on their way to Switzerland, but they insist they actually saw them leave. Write about an incident from the news, movies, or real life where a false rumor is accepted as the truth.
15. Friday, 21 August, 1942
Anne is upset because even though she is thirteen years old, her mother still treats her like a baby. Write a letter to Anne advising her on how to convince her mother to accept the fact that Anne is nearly grown.

Response Journal

16. Wednesday, 2 September, 1942
Peter is punished for reading a forbidden book about women. If you were a parent in today's world, what kinds of materials might you keep away from innocent children? Do you agree with the Van Daans that some materials are unsuitable for young adults like Peter?
17. Monday, 21 September, 1942
Anne writes, "I was being discussed and they decided that I'm not completely stupid after all, which had the effect of making me work extra hard the next day." Write about a time in your life when someone gave you a compliment and how that compliment made you feel.
18. Friday, 25 September, 1942
The Van Daans ask Anne if she "couldn't get fond of Peter." Anne is not interested in Peter because she thinks he is awkward and shy. Write a letter to Peter giving him some advice on how to make friends with Anne.
19. Sunday, 27 September, 1942
Anne writes that she "can understand my friends better than my own mother—too bad!" Many young people express similar sentiments about one or both of their parents. Why do you suppose that is?
20. Monday, 28 September, 1942
Anne is amused by a quarrel between Mrs. Van Daan and Mrs. Frank. Anne concludes that "You only really get to know people when you've had a jolly good row with them. Then and then only can you judge their true characters!" People often say hurtful things in the heat of an argument that they would never normally say. Think about a quarrel you have had with a friend or family member. What did you learn about that person's character because of the fight?

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

21. Tuesday, 29 September, 1942
Complete the following dialogue.
First Student: Yuck, using a jar for a toilet is just gross.
Second Student: Yeah, really. But I think I could be quiet for a whole day.
First Student: Dream on. You talk all of the time. I can't imagine not being able to talk at all.
You: Anne could still tell her family what she was thinking without making noise. She could...
22. Thursday, 1 October, 1942
Mrs. Van Daan tries to flirt with Pim by touching his face and hair or making witty remarks. Write about someone you know, have read about, or saw in a movie who flirts with everyone. Why do you suppose people behave this way?
23. Saturday, 3 October, 1942
Anne and her mother are quarreling again. Anne's father tries to get Anne to be more understanding and helpful when her mother is feeling poorly. Anne stubbornly refuses to help Mummy. In your opinion what does Anne want from her mother that she is not getting, resulting in Anne's unwillingness to help her mother?
24. Friday, 9 October, 1942
In this diary entry, Anne details some of the horrors of the Westerbork camp and of the Gestapo. Anne describes a poor old Jewish woman who is forced to sit on her doorstep to wait while the Gestapo fetch a car to take her away. Write a letter to a friend who does not understand, explaining why the woman's neighbors fail to help hide her from the Gestapo.
25. Friday, 16 October, 1942
Anne chases Peter off his bed and does not care that he is furious with her. Write a letter from Peter to Anne telling her how he feels about her inconsiderate behavior.