



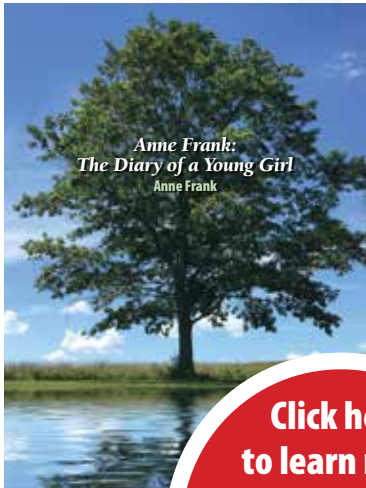
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Reflections: A Student Response Journal



Anne Frank:
The Diary of a Young Girl
Anne Frank

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Response Journal

To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

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

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?

Response Journal

87. Thursday, 2 March, 1944
Peter is troubled by his parents' quarrels. As an only child, he does not have anyone to talk to about his problems. Anne suggests that Peter talk to her father. Suppose you had a terrible problem, which adult in your life would you feel the most comfortable confiding in? What qualities does that adult possess which inspires your trust?
88. Friday, 3 March, 1944 and Monday, 6 March, 1944
Peter hides his true feelings by acting indifferent and grown up. Do you know of anyone like Peter who masks his or her true feelings with cool behavior? What advice would you give Anne to help draw Peter out of his shell?
89. Tuesday, 7 March, 1944
Anne writes, "I don't want followers, but friends, admirers who fall not for a flattering smile but for what one does and for one's character." If you could be Anne's friend for just one day, what topics would you want to discuss with her? What questions would you want to ask her?
90. Thursday, 16 March, 1944
Anne feels that the only way she can be herself is when she is writing or in the attic with Peter. She writes, "The brightest spot of all is that at least I can write down my thoughts and feelings, otherwise I would be absolutely stifled!" Everyone needs a place or an activity in life that provides an escape from problems. For Anne, this escape is through her writing. What are some of the activities you enjoy which serve the same purpose in your life that Anne's writing does for her?
91. Friday, 17 March, 1944
Anne and Margot are upset because their parents insist on treating them like children: "We are treated as children over outward things, and we are much older than most girls of our age inwardly." Write a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Frank explaining to them that their children are growing up and deserve to be treated with the same respect given to adults.

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

102. Monday, 17 April, 1944; Tuesday, 18 April, 1944; Wednesday, 19 April, 1944; Friday, 21 April 1944; Tuesday, 25 April, 1944; Thursday, 27 April, 1944; Friday, 28 April, 1944
Anne wonders if at fourteen she is old enough to be kissing and cuddling with Peter. What advice would you give Anne concerning their relationship?
103. Tuesday, 2 May, 1944
Anne confides in her father that she and Peter are more than just friends. Her father advises them both to try and just be friends. He does not think a romantic relationship is wise in their present living conditions and wants Anne to limit her visits to the attic. Anne respects her father's opinions, but plans to keep seeing Peter because she trusts Peter to behave as a gentleman. Have you ever been in a situation where you decide to go against your parent's advice even though you trust and respect their opinion? What were the consequences of your defiance?
104. Wednesday, 3 May, 1944
Complete the following dialogue between students.
First Student: Anne seems to be contradicting herself in this entry. She says that people have an "urge to destroy, an urge to kill, to murder and rage" and that until man changes his nature, there will always be wars. But at the end, she says that nature is beautiful, people are good, and her life is an adventure. I don't get it.
Second Student: In the first part she is talking about the war, but in the second part she is talking about the people in the Annexe. Maybe that is why it seems so confusing.
You: In a way, I think you are both right. Anne herself is an example to mankind. Anne is trying to develop internally so she does not become....