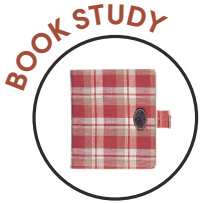


# Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

## Post-Reading Response Prompts

After reading *Anne Frank: The Diary of Young Girl*, choose five of the following prompts to respond to.

<b>A.</b>	<p>Describe Anne's perception of her relationship with her parents and her relationship with her sister, Margot. How do her feelings about her mother and father differ, and what is Anne's relationship with her sister like? How do her feelings change over the course of her diary?</p> <p>Early in her diary, Anne seems to have a positive relationship with both of her parents. She doesn't say anything negative about either of them. However, once they're living in their hiding place, Anne begins to have conflicts with her mother, and she feels that they're drifting apart. Anne finds her mother too critical and believes she's nicer to Margot, Anne's older sister. Anne gets along better with her father, whom she affectionately calls Pim, and she believes that he understands her more than her mother does. Anne describes Margot as "naturally good," "a paragon of virtue," and "brilliant." Anne perceives that her parents, especially her mother, seem to favor Margot. In her diary, Anne rages that her sister is "too weak-willed and passive," and she says that she doesn't believe Margot has the same problems and thoughts as Anne herself does. However as the diary progresses and Anne matures, the sisters become more friendly with each other. Anne considers Margot's feelings when she forms a relationship with Peter, which shows that Anne's resentment has faded. Over time, Anne's feelings about her father also shift. Anne complains that Pim doesn't actually understand her either. She writes him a letter that he finds very hurtful, and Anne is filled with remorse for having hurt his feelings. Despite the conflicts Anne has with both her parents, she admits that she has always been well taken care of by both of them, even spoiled.</p>
<b>B.</b>	<p>In order to survive, the eight people hiding in the Annex rely on helpers who put themselves at great risk. Who are these six people, and what do they do for the people in hiding? Why do you think they risk their lives?</p> <p>The six people who help hide and protect the people hiding at 263 Prinsengracht are business associates and friends of Otto Frank. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miep Gies, the office manager at Opetka, Otto Frank's company</li> <li>• Jan Gies, Miep's husband</li> <li>• Bep Voskuijl, an employee at Opetka</li> <li>• Johan Voskuijl, Bep's father and the warehouse manager for Opetka</li> <li>• Victor Kugler, a business associate of Otto Frank</li> <li>• Johannes Kleiman, business associate of Otto Frank</li> </ul> <p>The helpers provide the people in hiding with food, company, friendship, reading material, and news of the outside world. Most of them help set up the hiding place and move the Franks, the Van Daans, and Mr. Dussel in. The helpers take on great personal risk and responsibility to protect the people in hiding. <i>Student answers to the final question will vary but should be supported with relevant arguments and story details.</i></p>

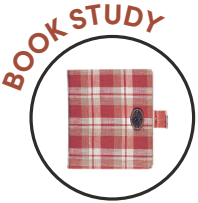


# Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

## Post-Reading Response Prompts

After reading *Anne Frank: The Diary of Young Girl*, choose five of the following prompts to respond to.

<p><b>C.</b></p>	<p>Describe the relationship between the Van Daans and the Franks. How did the relationship begin and how does it progress throughout the two years that the families are in hiding together? Include details about Anne's first impression of Peter van Daan and how her feelings toward him change throughout the story.</p> <p>Mr. Frank and Mr. van Daan were friends and business associates, and as the two realized the worsening situation for Jews in the Netherlands, they decided to utilize the business's office building to set up a hiding place for both their families. The Van Daans and the Franks (along with Mr. Dussel, who joined them later) live together almost as a family in the hiding place. They share meals, play games, and listen to the radio together. They develop a schedule for doing chores and using the restroom. According to Anne's diary, there are many conflicts between the Van Daans and the Franks while they are living together in the Annex, some of which she believes are justified and many of which she thinks are petty and ridiculous. Anne Frank and Peter van Daan are not initially at all interested in each other. At first, Anne describes Peter as "an obnoxious boy who lies around on his bed all day." She also says that he is lazy, hypersensitive, and a hypochondriac. Much later, in 1944, Anne begins to look to Peter for companionship. The two eventually develop a friendship and spend time together in the attic room. Soon, all Anne can think of is Peter, and a romance develops between them. Anne later admits that Peter was something of a conquest, and she begins to rethink her feelings. She still cares for him, but she sees his flaws more clearly again. She's disappointed in his lack of ideals and commitment to being a good person, and she's afraid that, in her mind, she has imagined him to be something he's not.</p>
<p><b>D.</b></p>	<p>Anne and the others living in the Annex are physically cut off from the outside world. However, they are very well-informed about current events. How do the people hiding in the Annex receive their news? Include at least three ways they receive information.</p> <p>The people hiding in the Annex receive much of their information about the outside world from their helpers, with whom they often visit and socialize. They also receive their news from newspapers and magazines the helpers give them. Anne is able to keep up with the latest movies, fashion trends, and the Dutch royal family in this way. However, their greatest source of important information about politics and the war seems to be the radio. Broadcasts about the war, from both the Germans and the Allies, especially from the BBC of Great Britain, keep them informed. They initially gather to listen to the big radio that's in the office downstairs. When they are forced to give that up—radios are confiscated by the Nazis—they listen to a small radio upstairs.</p>
<p><b>E.</b></p>	<p>One recurring theme throughout Anne Frank's diary is the importance of nature. Describe Anne's perspective on nature and how she's able to experience nature in her hiding place. Why is nature likely so profoundly important to Anne?</p> <p>Anne often writes of how emotionally moved she is by nature. She talks of the blue sky, the chestnut tree outside the Annex, the seagulls, and the night sky. She says that looking at nature makes her feel calm, and it gives her hope and courage. She says that it's better than medicine for calming her nerves and that no matter how people suffer, nature can bring comfort. However, Anne sees very little of nature from the Annex. Most of the windows are blacked out, and the windows are usually entirely closed. However, the window in the attic is not blacked out, and sometimes she opens it to breathe in the air and look out at the sky and the top of the chestnut tree. Anne says that she hadn't previously felt such a connection to nature, so it's likely the fact that she's cut off from the outside world for so long that leads to Anne's heightened appreciation of nature.</p>

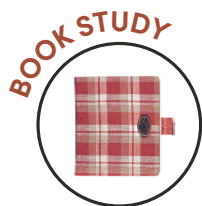


# Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

## Post-Reading Response Prompts

After reading *Anne Frank: The Diary of Young Girl*, choose five of the following prompts to respond to.

<p><b>F.</b></p>	<p>At times, Anne expresses feelings of guilt that she and her family are in hiding. Given her own unfortunate circumstances, why would she feel guilty? Do you think Anne and her family should feel guilty? Why or why not?</p> <p>Even though Anne's life has been terribly disrupted by having to go into hiding, she knows that other Jews have had it worse. Many have already lost their lives, and many have been sent to concentration camps, where they're treated inhumanely and usually die. On the other hand, Anne and her family have food, shelter, and each other. For the time being, at least, they're safe. Another reason Anne sometimes feels guilty is that their helpers are putting themselves at risk. If their helpers are caught, they'll suffer consequences, too. <i>Student answers to the final question will vary but should be supported with relevant arguments and story details.</i></p>
<p><b>G.</b></p>	<p>Throughout her diary, Anne describes herself as having an outer and inner self that are very different. How does she see her inner and outer selves as being different? Does this difference resolve itself by the last entry of her diary? Explain.</p> <p>On the surface, Anne is bubbly, confident, outgoing, and even superficial. From the very beginning, she describes herself as having no true friend that she can confide in, even though she's very popular and has many "friends" with whom she spends her time. In her diary, however, Anne often demonstrates that she's deeply thoughtful and critical of herself. She feels that no one understands her and how much she thinks about things. Anne holds opinions about the war, the importance of being good and having high ideals, and women's role in society. This idea of "two Annes" continues throughout the diary. In her last entry on August 1, 1944, Anne explains her continued struggle as she writes about unsuccessfully trying to push aside the lighter, superficial side of herself to let her deeper side shine through.</p>
<p><b>H.</b></p>	<p>When Anne starts her diary, she's just turned 13 years old, and her last entry is written when she's 15 years old. How does she view her diary when she starts writing, and how does she likely view it later? What changes her thinking?</p> <p>Soon after she gets her diary for her thirteenth birthday, Anne decides that she'll treat it as a close friend, a confidant whom she names Kitty. She addresses Kitty as "dearest" and refers to Kitty as her closest friend." At this point, she doesn't intend for anyone else to read the contents of her diary. Then, in March 1944, Anne hears a radio broadcast calling for people to save their diaries and letters written during the war, in order to preserve and later share their experiences. Anne realizes that after the war, people might be interested in hearing about their lives as Jews in hiding. She also realizes how much she loves to write and wants to one day become a journalist who makes a difference in the world. She even says that she would like to base a novel on the experiences she writes about in her diary. So Anne's concept of writing in her diary changes from being an entirely private endeavor to one that might eventually be shared with many others. Her writing takes on new importance. When someone in the group suggests burning Anne's diary to hide it from the police on April 11, 1944, Anne thinks, "Oh, not my diary; if my diary goes, I go too!"</p>



# Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

## Post-Reading Response Prompts

After reading *Anne Frank: The Diary of Young Girl*, choose five of the following prompts to respond to.

**I.**

How does Anne change over the course of her two years in hiding? What does she learn about herself, and what does she realize about her hopes for the future?

When Anne starts her diary, she still seems very much involved in "normal" life, preoccupied with birthdays, family, friends and "beaus" like Hello. At 13 years old, she's just emerging from childhood and into adolescence, and she's somewhat shielded from the horrors that are happening around her. That changes when she's suddenly forced to go into hiding. At first, Anne views her situation in the Annex through a child's lens, as an exciting adventure. As the years pass, she's more often fearful and despondent. She becomes more introspective, she becomes more distant from her family, and she becomes involved in a romance with Peter. Anne learns how much she loves to write and wants to pursue writing as a career after the war. She comes to believe that women should be respected and perceived differently in society, and she learns that she has an inner strength and high ideals that she's not willing to give up on, even in the face of the terrible things going on in the world.

**J.**

Anne has mixed feelings about individual people and the human race in general. Describe the thoughts and feelings Anne expresses throughout her diary. Why might she have such conflicting opinions about people?

Anne holds strong opinions about the goodness and flaws she sees in particular individuals. Early in her diary, Anne describes some of her classmates as "detestable," while others are "decent." In the Annex, Anne often writes about how selfishly and inately the adults behave, and she worries about the weakness of character she perceives in Peter and Margot. However, she also describes her father as "goodness personified," and she's truly impressed with the overwhelming goodness of Miep, Bep, and the other helpers, who risk their own lives to help them all. When Anne considers humanity as a whole, she alternates between thinking that human nature is ultimately evil and thinking that people are fundamentally good. She says that human nature always leads societies to war and destruction and that everyone, not just the politicians, is "guilty" of causing the terrible things happening in the world at the time. She believes that there's a "destructive urge in people, the urge to rage, murder and kill," and that until humanity fundamentally changes, everything good that has been built up will get cut down and destroyed. On the other hand, Anne says—not long before she, most of her family, and her fellow Jews hiding in the Annex are discovered and taken to their deaths—that she still believes, "in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart." *Student answers to the final question will vary but should be supported with relevant arguments and story details.*