

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

Discussion Guide #2

Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion.

DIARY ENTRIES: November 10, 1942 – March 31, 1943

Comprehension:

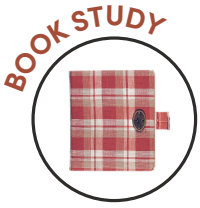
- Who comes to live in the hiding place with the Franks and the Van Daans, and what is this person's profession? How does this person's arrival affect the sleeping arrangements in the Secret Annex?
- Why is Mr. Dussel so surprised to see the others in the Secret Annex?
- What news does Mr. Dussel bring about the outside world in Amsterdam, and how does it make Anne feel?
- While Anne's initial impression of Mr. Dussel is positive, how does it change by the end of 1942?
- On January 13, 1943, Anne describes the horrors of the war for the people of Amsterdam. How are people suffering, and what types of things does she describe?
- What frightening episode does Anne describe on Thursday, March 25, 1943? What other, more minor thing happens that is upsetting to Anne in particular?
- What does Anne refer to as her "time killers"? Why does she call them this?

Analysis:

- What is the tone and purpose of the Van Daans' welcome letter to Mr. Dussel, titled "Prospectus and Guide to the Secret Annex"? Why do you think the Van Daans wrote a letter like this?
- On December 13, 1942, Anne says, "Our thoughts . . . are like a merry-go-round." She also remarks about having seen two Jewish people as she peeked out the window. She says that it was "as though I were gazing at one of the Seven Wonders of the World." What does Anne mean in these two similes?

Personal Connection:

- Consider Anne's "time killers" and the purpose they serve in her life. What are your "time killers," and when do you find yourself relying on them? Explain.



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DIARY ENTRIES: April 1, 1943 – August 9, 1943

Comprehension:

- On April 1, "April Fool's Day," Anne says that she's not in the mood for pranks. What misfortunes does she talk about that day?
- What is the importance of radios to those living in the Secret Annex, as well as to others in the country?
- Why do Anne and the others get so excited about Miep's deliveries on Saturdays? What does Anne say are their only diversions?
- What disagreement do Anne and Mr. Dussel have in mid-July, and how is it resolved?
- On July 26, 1943, Anne writes that the previous day was a very "tumultuous" day. What does this mean, and what happened?
- What does Anne think of as the most peaceful time of the day?
- In her diary entry on August 9, 1943, how does Anne describe each of the nine people at their dinner table? Think of a few words or a phrase for each person that demonstrate how Anne sees them.

Analysis:

- For Anne's birthday, her father writes her a poem. What part of the poem best demonstrates Pim's understanding of Anne's feelings and perceptions about the situation in the Annex? Explain.
- On July 16, when there is a "real" break-in, why does Pim likely go down to the private office to turn the radio to a German station?
- On the day of July 26, 1943, why does Anne put the phrase "escape bag" in quotation marks?

Personal Connection:

- What do you think of the way that Anne treats her mother, as she writes about it on April 2, 1943? Who do you relate to more—Anne or her mother? Why?