

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

Discussion Guide #4

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: February 27, 1944 – March 22, 1944

Comprehension:

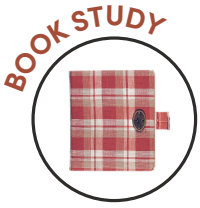
- What event does Anne write about on March 1, 1944, that distracts her from her personal worries? What's different about this event as compared to similar ones from the past?
- What does Peter reveal to Anne about his family? How does this make Anne feel?
- How does Anne feel when she looks into the candle on March 3, and why?
- Anne says that she has a different outlook than her mother about how to deal with sadness and feelings of discouragement and despondence. How does Anne feel differently than her mother?
- How does Anne feel about her life before she went into hiding?
- On March 10, Anne cites the proverb, "Misfortunes never come singly." What misfortunes does she describe?
- Why does Anne have a perfumed handkerchief over her nose and mouth on March 14, 1944? What has led to the situation?
- With whom does Anne begin a written correspondence? What's the nature of their correspondence?

Analysis:

- How does Anne demonstrate her lack of confidence in her new relationship with Peter?
- On March 16, Anne says, "For the first time in ages, Jan gave us some news of the outside world." What do Jan's entertaining stories reveal about life outside the Annex?

Personal Connection:

- What makes you feel calm and happy when everything else in life seems out of your control? Why do you think this item, ritual, person, or place is able to reduce your stress?



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DIARY ENTRIES: March 23, 1944 – April 16, 1944

Comprehension:

- What has Anne learned about how to avoid arguments with Mr. and Mrs. van Daan?
- What does Anne believe the adults in the Annex do too much of?
- What information does the Dutch cabinet minister share that makes Anne see her diary in a new light?
- Why do you think Anne writes more about the state of affairs outside of the Secret Annex in much of her diary entry on March 29, 1944?
- What are "food cycles," and what is the current food situation in the Annex?
- What are Anne's hobbies and interests, as she writes on Thursday, April 6, 1944? What are her favorite and least favorite school subjects?
- Why is the break-in on Tuesday, April 11, 1944, particularly upsetting for Anne and the others?
- What momentous event does Anne write about on Sunday, April 16, 1944?

Analysis:

- On March 25, 1944, Anne writes, "You never realize how much you've changed until after it's happened." What does she mean by this?
- What turning point occurs on April 5, 1944, in how Anne views her current situation and the future? What do you think helps Anne come to this new understanding?

Personal Connection:

- When Anne reflects on how much she's changed in the span of about two years, she says, "Inwardly, outwardly, nothing's the same." Reflect on your own life. How have you changed over the last two years, and how have you stayed the same? What stands out to you?