

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

Discussion Guide #5

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: April 17, 1944 – May 22, 1944

Comprehension:

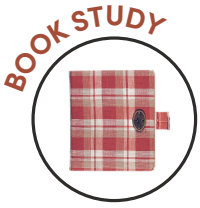
- On April 17, 1944, what does Anne feel doubtful about, and what is she wondering about?
- On April 21, 1944, Anne writes, "Here we've been going from one disaster to the next." What is she talking about?
- How has Mr. Dussel reacted to the new security measures in the Annex?
- On May 2, with Peter's approval, Anne tells her father about her relationship with Peter. How does Mr. Frank initially respond to Anne's confession, and how does his response change? What does Anne decide to do?
- How does Anne sometimes see her life in hiding?
- What does Anne reveal about her family's past? What does Anne feel about living such a life?
- What news causes Anne and the others "great sorrow and dismay," as she relates on May 22, 1944?

Analysis:

- On May 16, Anne says that they've reverted to leaving the windows open at night. Previously, she'd written about how Mr. Dussel was so upset about not being able to do so in the wake of the big break-in. Why do you think they've likely gone back to opening the windows?
- On May 16, Anne writes a "Systematic Survey of Courses and Reading Matter" of the members of their Annex family. What insights into life in the Annex and the people living there does Anne's list provide?

Personal Connection:

- When Anne is "down in the dumps," she reminds herself that her life is just beginning and that she has many blessings. What do you do when you're feeling down, and what positive things could you list about yourself and your life that might help you feel better?



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DIARY ENTRIES: May 25, 1944 – August 1, 1944 + Afterword

Comprehension:

- On May 25, 1944, Anne says, "The world's been turned upside down." What does she mean?
- What is Anne's new "prescription for gunfire jitters," and how well does it work?
- What momentous, historical event does Anne write about on June 6, 1944? How do the people in the Annex react to the news?
- What does Anne believe about finding true happiness and satisfaction in life, as she expresses in her diary entry of July 6, 1944?
- On July 15, 1944, Anne reflects on her feelings and behavior in regard to Peter. What does she think, and what does she admit about herself and Peter?
- What does Anne mean when she refers to herself as "a bundle of contradictions" on July 21, 1944, and on August 1, 1944?
- What happened on the morning of August 4, 1944?

Analysis:

- On May 26, 1944, Anne writes about being more miserable than she's been in months. What is at the heart of her misery? Is anything that she writes about surprising?
- On July 8, 1944, Anne writes about a day filled with strawberries. At the beginning of the second paragraph of this entry, Anne refers to herself in the third person. What does this show about how Anne sees the scene she's describing?
- On July 15, 1944, Anne writes, "I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart." How do you think Anne was able to maintain that viewpoint given the horrors all around her?

Personal Connection:

- On June 13, 1944, Anne writes about what she likes and dislikes about Peter. What are some beliefs, behaviors, and traits that you value in a friend? Why are those things important to you?