

Focus ON READING

Vocabulary

READING
COMPREHENSION

The Diary of a Young
Girl

Anne Frank

ACTIVATE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Reproducible Activities

Focus Your Knowledge

Anne Frank and her family lived in hiding from the Nazis during World War II. The Germans had occupied Holland where the Franks had moved.

- Create a time line of the major events of World War II.
- Look at the map below. It shows what Europe looked like before World War II. Compare it with a current map of Europe. What changes do you see?
- Color in a map of Europe to show the territories that the Germans occupied during World War II.
- Make a list explaining the causes of World War II.
- What do you know about the Jewish religion today? What are the lasting effects of the war on today's Jews?
- Have you seen or heard about the Holocaust memorial in Washington, D.C.? It was designed to commemorate the millions who died under the Nazis. What do you think of such a memorial? How might relatives of people killed in the Holocaust react to a memorial?



- — — Pre WWII German borders
- — — Pre WWII Union of Soviet Socialist Republics borders

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. What are some humorous aspects of living as the Franks and Van Daans do?
2. What are Anne's feelings toward her father?
3. In these chapters, do you sense how serious the situation really is?
4. Why might Mrs. Van Daan be so hard to get along with?
5. How does Anne continue her education after going into hiding?

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. Who receives the call-up notice that sends the Franks into hiding early?
 - a. Anne
 - b. Daddy
 - c. Margot
2. How does Anne like the “Secret Annexe”?
 - a. She hates it because it is too small.
 - b. She thinks it is an ideal hiding place.
 - c. She is indifferent about it.
3. What story about the Franks’ disappearance do people believe?
 - a. They are in hiding in Holland.
 - b. They were taken away by the Nazis.
 - c. They escaped to Belgium and Switzerland.
4. What causes the argument between Peter and the grown-ups?
 - a. He is wasting food on his cat, Mouschi.
 - b. He refuses to leave the attic.
 - c. He is reading a book about women.
5. Anne thinks Peter is _____ .
 - a. awkward
 - b. intelligent
 - c. helpful
6. The Van Daans feel that _____ .
 - a. they should not get involved in the Franks’ family issues
 - b. Anne is spoiled, and they should change how she is treated
 - c. Margot is far too mature for her age
7. What do the members of the “Secret Annexe” think about the plumber’s visit?
 - a. It is difficult because they have to watch him all day.
 - b. It is beneficial because he installs an additional toilet.
 - c. It is unpleasant because they cannot use water all day.
8. What is their first big scare of being discovered?
 - a. The carpenter knocks on the cupboard door.
 - b. Someone has seen the Van Daans entering the warehouse.
 - c. The plumber remembers hearing noises while he worked.
9. When Anne’s parents side with Margot about the book incident, why does Anne leave the room?
 - a. She storms out because she is angry about giving back the book.
 - b. She is miserable because her parents have sided with Margot.
 - c. She is going to look for her own book.
10. Who is moving in to be the eighth member of the “Secret Annexe”?
 - a. Miep
 - b. Dussel
 - c. Koophuis

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. What is Anne's life like before she goes into hiding?
2. Why does Anne decide to name her journal "Kitty"?
3. What are three things that change when the Van Daans arrive?
4. How does Mr. Vossen help the "Secret Annexe"?
5. How is Peter's fight with the grown-ups resolved?
6. Why does Anne refuse to let Mrs. Van Daan read her diary?
7. Why do they have to be so quiet all day long?
8. What helps Anne get through the long days in the "Secret Annexe"?
9. Where does Anne finally choose to bathe?
10. What happens when Peter is carrying the beans up to the attic?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

ingenuity—inventiveness

industrious—hardworking

discord—difference of opinion; lack of harmony

loathe—to intensely dislike; to hate

procured—obtained

relentless—unyielding; never letting up

incendiary—explosive; used to set property on fire

clandestine—secretive

indignant—feeling strong displeasure because of something unjust or biased

tumult—violent or noisy commotion; uproar

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Chanukah, or Hanukkah, is an important Jewish holiday.

St. Nicholas Day is a Christian holiday leading up to Christmas.

The Allies refers to one of the two sides fighting World War II. The allied countries were Great Britain, the United States, France, the USSR, and many others. They united against the Axis powers, Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Winston Churchill (1874–1965) was the Prime Minister of England during World War II.

Mahatma Gandhi was a peaceful demonstrator in India, dedicated to the cause of human rights.

The Führer was the leader of the Nazi political party.

The New Order was Hitler's idea of having one master race, the Aryan race.

Benito Mussolini was the dictator of Italy, one of the Axis powers. **Sicily** is an island off southern Italy.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Did the rules affect life in the “Secret Annexe”? Were they to be followed or for entertainment?
2. How does Dussel change the dynamics within the “Secret Annexe”?
3. Has Anne changed in order to get along better with others in the “Secret Annexe”?
4. Does political news improve or worsen the living conditions for the Franks and the others?
5. How do Mrs. Van Daan’s mood swings affect the “Secret Annexe”?

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

- Why does Anne begin to feel lonely?
 - She no longer has her girlfriends to talk to.
 - Her family rarely listens to her.
 - Everyone listens to Dussel's news instead of hers.
- What kind of meat does Mr. Van Daan prepare in case of hard times?
 - salt steaks
 - beef jerky
 - sausages
- What does everyone receive for Christmas?
 - candy canes
 - a quarter pound of butter
 - books
- What does Anne do in reaction to troubles with Dussel?
 - She shouts back until he agrees.
 - She gets revenge by shutting the door and disconnecting the lamp.
 - She abandons action in order to keep peace.
- What happens to the suppliers (Elli, Mr. Koophuis, Kraler, and others) of the "Secret Annexe"?
 - They each come down with different ailments.
 - Fear begins keeping them away from the warehouse.
 - They were called away to help with the war efforts.
- How does the "Secret Annexe" handle trash?
 - They burn it every other night.
 - They leave it in the warehouse trash.
 - They give it to Koophuis to dispose of.
- How does Anne feel about her fourteenth birthday?
 - She is extremely pleased because she gets more than she deserves.
 - She is upset because she doesn't get new clothes that she needs.
 - She is distraught because it is barely mentioned.
- How does Anne approach Mr. Dussel on the subject of using the table?
 - She rudely tells him she needs it more than he.
 - She just uses it without permission.
 - She politely asks him to use it.
- What happens when the burglars break in?
 - The "Secret Annexe" is suspected because of noise.
 - The burglars steal cashboxes, checkbooks, postal orders, and coupons for sugar.
 - The burglars steal typewriters and money and then destroy papers.
- What happens when Anne expresses her dislike of a book?
 - Dussel is extraordinarily upset.
 - Mrs. Van Daan thinks she should not be reading those things.
 - Margot disagrees with her opinion.

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. Why is Dussel surprised when he first sees the “Secret Annexe”?
2. What effect does the “Prospectus and Guide to the ‘Secret Annexe’” have on Dussel and the rest of the “Secret Annexe”?
3. How does the “Secret Annexe” celebrate Chanuka and St. Nicholas Day?
4. What happens when Dussel opens his dental practice in the “Secret Annexe”?
5. How do the Franks, the Van Daans, and Dussel share Christmas presents with everyone?
6. What changes have occurred in food distribution in the “Secret Annexe”?
7. What happens when Anne refuses her mother’s prayers at night?
8. How have manners changed since entering the “Secret Annexe”?
9. What happens when Anne asks Mr. Dussel if she can use the little table in their room?
10. What are the first wishes for everyone when they exit the “Secret Annexe”?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

pedantic—in a teacherlike manner;
concerned with rules

aloof—reserved; distant

incessantly—continuing without
interruption

decoy—something used as a distraction

capitulated—surrendered

inquisitive—curious; asking questions

diligently—conscientiously; carefully;
thoroughly

supple—bending easily; flexible

deftly—skillfully; nimbly

impudent—offensively bold; disrespectful

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A **fascist** is someone who believes in the political views created by Mussolini in Italy. Fascism is similar to Nazism in many ways.

Heart palpitations are irregular heartbeats, often felt when the heart starts racing.

Diphtheria is a disease caused by unsanitary conditions that was rampant in the concentration camps of World War II.