

The Big Idea:
Hope and Courage in
the Face of Atrocity

The Diary of Anne Frank

**Written by Frances Goodrich
and Albert Hackett**

Adapted by Wendy Kesselman

Directed by Jodie Weiss

“The Diary of Anne Frank (Adaptation by Wendy Kesselman)” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.



Meet the Team

Cast

Anne Frank.....	Ariella Centeno
Otto Frank.....	Tony Blosser
Edith Frank.....	Bonnie Romney
Margot Frank.....	Spencer Wareing
Miep Gies.....	Amie Bjorklund
Peter Van Daan.....	Isaac Greenland
Mr. Kraler.....	Beau Heckman
Mrs. Van Daan.....	Debra K. Stevens
Mr. Van Daan.....	Louis Farber
Dussel.....	Jeff Deglow
Nazi Officer.....	Drew Leatham

Creative Team

Director.....	Jodie Weiss
Stage Manager.....	Jayden Dudley
Costume Coordinator.....	Moirra Caswell
Sound Designer	Chris Neumeyer
Prop Designer.....	Natalie Ward
Lighting Designer.....	Tim Monson
Projection Designer.....	Ricky Araiza
Fight Choreographer	Rachelle Dart

Sponsors



Field trip discounted ticket prices are underwritten by Susan Goldsmith.

What the Play is About

In Amsterdam on July 6, 1942. Thirteen-year-old Anne Frank, her sister Margot, and her parents, Otto and Edith Frank, arrive in the Secret Annex, a hidden space in Mr. Frank's business. They are Jewish, Amsterdam is under Nazi occupation, and they plan to hide in the Annex until the war ends. They share the space with Mr. and Mrs. van Daan, their 16-year-old son Peter, and Peter's cat Mousche. Anne starts a diary and initially sees the hiding as an adventure. Her diary quickly becomes her comfort and escape while living in the annex.

As the months pass, routines settle, and tensions rise over food and space. Sudden noises, like sirens, send everyone into a panic. Their helpers, Miep and Mr. Kraler, introduce Mr. Dussel, a dentist. He joins them and shares grim news about the fate of Jews outside.

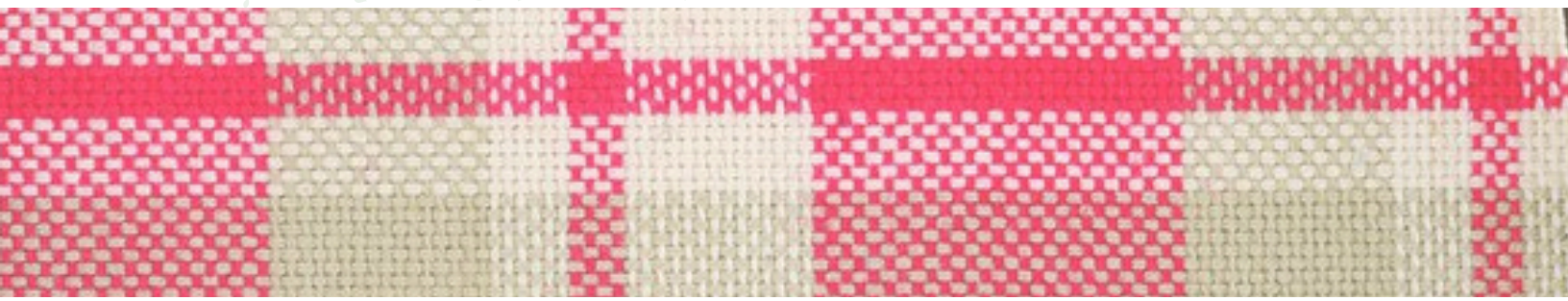
Food is increasingly scarce, and they're eating rotten potatoes. Anne suffers from nightmares. Mr. Kraler warns them that an employee indicated that he may suspect their presence and asked for either a raise or a bribe.

The celebration of Hanukkah provides some moments of connection and levity for the group as Anne has made gifts for everyone in the Annex.

Anne describes her developing feelings for Peter in her diary and their friendship deepens, leading to their first kiss.

Tensions peak when Mr. van Daan is caught stealing bread. Miep interrupts with the exciting news that the Allies have finally started invading. Days later, a Nazi officer bursts in. The bustle of their capture is full of terror, and Anne must leave her diary behind.

The play ends with Anne's father, Mr. Frank, the only survivor, sharing the heartbreaking fate of each person in the secret annex. He receives Anne's diary, which becomes her legacy. This play, adapted by Wendy Kesselman, shows us Anne as a bright, hopeful girl who wants to "go on living even after [her] death."



Talk About It!

Start a conversation before the show:

- ★ Anne's diary was first published in 1947. Why do you think people still read it?
- ★ The word "holocaust" literally means absolute destruction, primarily through fire, as in a nuclear holocaust. Why do you think Holocaust is the word used to describe the genocide of World War II?
- ★ While the Covid lockdown pales in comparison to the circumstances under which Anne lived, we briefly experienced a time during which we had to live our lives at home. What was the first thing you remember wanting to do after the lockdown ended? What were some of your feelings and thoughts during that time?

Start a conversation after the show:

- ★ Miep and Mr. Kraler risk their lives to help Anne and the others. What do you think motivated them to take such risks?
- ★ Miep doesn't consider herself a hero, although her support of the families in the annex was heroic. What does it mean to be a hero? Who do you consider to be a hero?
- ★ What moments stood out to you? Were they moments of tension? Moments of hope?
- ★ How did the acting and technical elements (sound, lights, etc.) help support the mood of the show during key scenes? How did it make you feel?
- ★ The characters in the play had to make difficult decisions. Did someone make a choice that surprised you? Did your perspective of that character change during the play?
- ★ What did you learn from the play that you didn't know before (either about Anne or the Holocaust or WWII)? Why is retelling Anne's story and other stories from the Holocaust so important?



Discover It!

Vocabulary

- **GENOCIDE:** the planned and organized killing of a group of people. Victims of genocide are killed because of their race, religion, ethnicity culture, or nationality.
- **NAZI:** the shortened title of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei in German). The Nazi party was a fascist political party.
- **FASCISM:** the political viewpoint that one's nation and race are superior to all others and the government controls everything; people aren't allowed to make many of their own choices.
- **HOLOCAUST:** a thorough destruction involving extensive loss of life, especially through fire.
- **ANTI-SEMITISM:** hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group.

What is Genocide?

The word "genocide" did not exist until 1944. It was coined by Ralph Lemkin, a Polish Jewish lawyer, in an effort to describe the atrocities that occurred during World War II. On December 9, 1948, the United Nations approved the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and established genocide as an international crime and the job of nations to "undertake to prevent and punish." While the word "genocide" didn't exist until 1944, there are several examples of genocide prior to the Holocaust. Sadly, genocide has also occurred since the Holocaust, such as:

1975-1979 The Killing Fields: The Cambodian Genocide
1992-1995: Bosnia and Herzegovina
1994: Rwandan Genocide
2003-2005: Darfur

Want to learn more?

<https://genocideeducation.org/resources/modern-era-genocides/>

<https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/genocide.shtml>

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/what-is-genocide>

Discover It!

Did You Know?

Anne used pseudonyms (fake names) for many of the people she spoke about in her diary. She didn't use pseudonyms for everyone, especially some of her helpers like Miep.



PSEUDONYM:
Henk

ACTUAL NAME:
Miep and Jan Gies



The Frank Family: Otto, Anne, Edith, and Margot
Attending Miep's wedding July 16, 1941.



PSEUDONYM:
Mr. Kraler

ACTUAL NAME:
Victor Kugler



PSEUDONYM:
Petronella Van Daan

ACTUAL NAME:
Auguste Van Pels



PSEUDONYM:
Peter Van Daan

ACTUAL NAME:
Peter Van Pels



PSEUDONYM:
Hans Van Daan

ACTUAL NAME:
Hermann Van Pels



PSEUDONYM:
Albert Dussel

ACTUAL NAME:
Fritz Pfeffer

The Timeline

1

15 moments that impacted the life and legacy of Anne Frank

June 12, 1929

Anneliese Marie Frank is born in Frankfurt

January 30, 1933

Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany.

April 1933

The Nazis declare a boycott of Jewish businesses and medical and legal practices and laws are passed causing the removal of Jewish people from government and teaching positions.



May 3, 1942

The "Yellow Badge" is introduced in the Netherlands

June 12, 1942

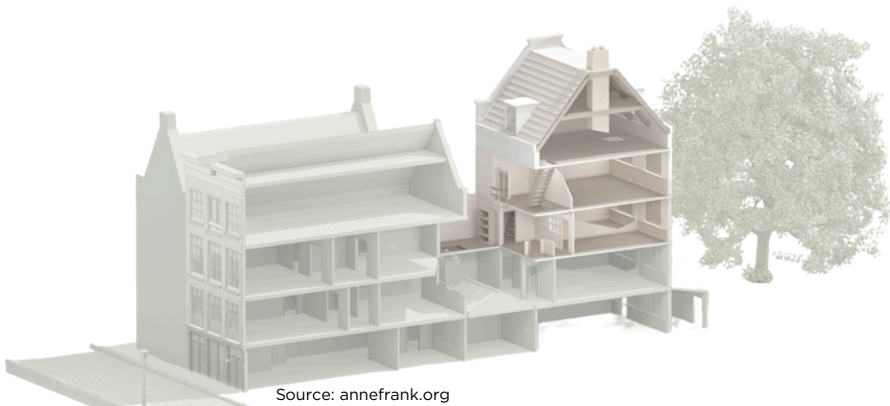
Anne receives a diary for her 13th birthday

July 5, 1942

Margot is "called up" for deportation to a labor camp.

July 6, 1942

The Frank family moves into the "Secret Annexe," 10 days earlier than planned.



Source: annefrank.org



February 16, 1934

Anne, Margot, and Edith emigrate to Amsterdam and reunite with Otto who emigrated there the summer of 1933

September 1, 1939

Germany invades Poland. World War 2 begins.

February 22-23, 1941

Deportation of Dutch Jews begins



Photo: Neil Tuller

The Timeline

2

15 moments that impacted the life and legacy of Anne Frank

August 4, 1944

The inhabitants of the “Secret Annexe” are discovered, arrested, and taken to Westerbork to await transport to Auschwitz

October 1944

Margot and Anne are moved from Auschwitz to Bergen-Belsen

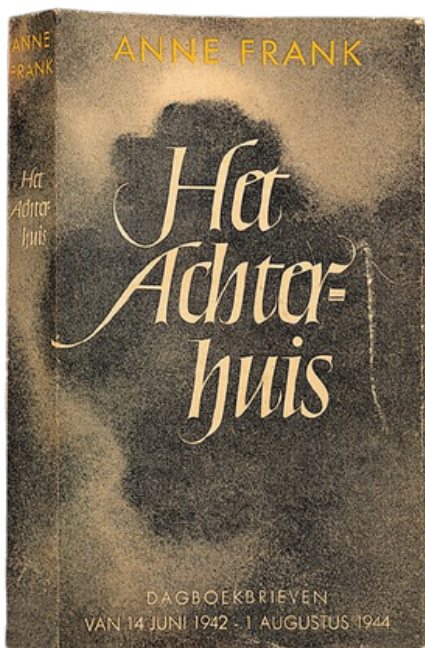


*They awaited transport in barrack 67



February/March 1945

Anne and Margot contract typhus and die within days of each other.



May 7, 1945

Germany declares “unconditional surrender,” ending the war in Europe

June 25, 1947

Anne’s diary is published for the first time with the title “Het Achterhuis” (‘The Secret Annexe’)

Want to learn more?

Scan the QR code to access a timeline with even more facts about the inhabitants of the Annex and events of World War II



Create It!

ERASURE POETRY

Erasure poetry is a creative way to make a poem from an existing text. You pick out words or phrases from the text that you like and erase the rest, creating your own unique work of art and poetry.

Materials Needed

- Excerpts from Anne Frank's diary
- Black markers or pens
- White paper
- Colored pencils or markers
- Scissors and glue

Scan the QR code to access excerpts from Anne's diary



1

Choose a Text: Select an excerpt from Anne's diary that you find interesting.

2

Highlight Meaning: Use a colored marker or pen to highlight words or phrases that stand out to you, words that have a special meaning or feeling.

3

Black Out the Rest: With your black marker, cover or "erase" all the words you didn't highlight, leaving only your chosen words behind.

4

Craft Your Poem: Rearrange the selected words to create a poem.

Experiment with different orders and layouts to express yourself and make new meaning with the highlighted words:

- Rewrite highlighted words on a new sheet
- Decorate the black and white space around highlighted words
- Cut them out and glue them onto a new sheet.

5

Share and Explain: If you'd like, share your erasure poem with others and explain why you chose those particular words. It's a chance to show your creative process.

Imagine It!

GROUP SCULPTING

1

Gather students in a circle. Choose a small group (4 to 5 students) to step into the circle and be the sculpture; the students on the perimeter will be the sculptors.

2

Provide a prompt for your piece of art. This can be something concrete, like “preparing dinner,” or a more abstract concept or emotion connected to the theme you are exploring.

Examples of abstract concepts include:

Safety
Fear
Discovery
Silence

3

The students in the circle should stand in a neutral position. One at a time, the sculptors will step into the circle and make one adjustment to the sculpture, i.e. adjust an arm position or turn one person to face another. The sculptor should demonstrate the position or facial expression they’d like to see, and the sculpture will mirror it with their body.

Sculptors must make respectful and safe choices with their classmates’ bodies.

Sculptures must hold each new position until they are adjusted again. If necessary, they can shake out their body and relax for a moment before returning to position.

4

If you have a large group, give each sculptor one turn to fine tune the sculpture. For smaller groups, you might keep adjusting until the group feels like their piece is finished.

5

Invite one or more students to tell the “story” of the piece of art, with the understanding that there isn’t a right or wrong interpretation of what the group has created.

If time allows, choose new students to step into the circle and do it again!

The attic window in the annex offered a quiet space for Anne to be alone and reflect. She could daydream about the future, ponder her feelings, and connect with nature. Connect with the nature around you with this sensory-focused activity.

1

Go outside if possible or, if it's not, open a window to the outdoors.

2

As you let the sights, smells, and sounds of nature wash over you, fill out the template on the next page.

3

Share your observations and compare the items that different people noticed. Which things were common observations? Which were unique?

4

Choose one item from your list to elaborate on. Write a few sentences including lots of vivid descriptors and reflecting on how observing that thing made you feel. For example, if you saw clouds, you could write something like: "I saw the white, fluffy cumulous clouds floating through the bright blue sky. I felt light, like I could float away too."

Expand It!

Take your piece of writing and create a piece of art around it. Use paint, crayons, real items from nature...whatever inspires you. Use the text as a caption to your artwork or incorporate the words into the art itself!

Name: _____

The Diary of Anne Frank: THE WORLD OUTSIDE

Be still, take a deep breath, and notice the world outside! Fill in the blanks next to each prompt with a few words describing what you notice using that sense.

5 things you can see:

4 things you can feel:

3 things you can hear:

2 things you can smell:

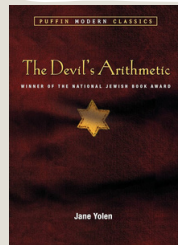
1 thing you are grateful for:

Read About It!

Keep the conversation going; check out this list of books connected to the ideas and themes in 'The Diary of Anne Frank.'



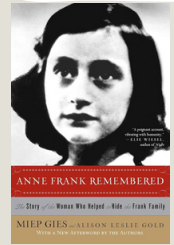
Anne Frank Beyond the Diary
By Ruud van der Rol & Rian Verhoeven
Ages 10-12



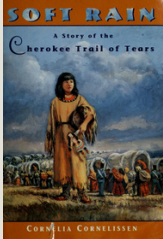
The Devil's Arithmetic
By Jane Yolen
Ages 11-13



My Friend Anne
By Hannah Pick-Goslar & Dina Kraft
Ages 14-18



Anne Frank Remembered
By Miep Gies
Ages 14-18



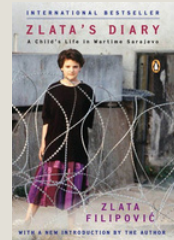
Soft Rain
By Cornelia Cornelissen
Ages 9-11



Broken Memory
By Elizabeth Combres
Ages 12-15



The Red Pencil
By Andrea Davis Pinkney & Shane W. Evans
Ages 9-12



Zlata's Diary
By Zlata Filipovic
Ages 12-15



When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit
By Judith Kerr
Ages 9-10



White Bird: A Wonder Story
By R.J. Palacio
Ages 12-14

Extend It!

The play is just the beginning - there's always more to learn. Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to dig deeper into what interests you!

- ★ Visit the Anne Frank House website
- ★ Access the full timeline of events surrounding the story
- ★ Learn more about the history of genocide



Extend the Experience!

Bring a professional Teaching Artist to your classroom to lead an arts-based, standards-driven lesson connected to the play.

Email us at:

CPEducation@childsplayaz.org

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Follow us on social media and share your comments & photos!

#ChildsplayAZ

#DiaryOfAnneFrank

We also love getting mail!

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About Childsplay

Our mission is to ignite imagination, wonder and joy by creating strikingly original theatre and learning experiences that inspire young minds to explore and soar.

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