

Extraordinary Lives Anne Frank

1. What was Anne Frank's full name?
Annalies Marie Frank
2. Why did the Franks leave Germany when Anne was four? Where did they go?
The family left to flee the Nazis ,who had come to power in Germany. They went to live in nearby Holland (the Netherlands).
3. List two persecutions faced by the Franks and other Jews living under the Nazi regime.
Students may choose a number of things – the segregated schooling, the loss of citizenship, the lack of freedom of movement, the inability to go to certain parks etc. They may know other things such as the wearing of yellow stars to show that they are Jews etc.
4. Why did the Franks fail to immigrate to the United States?
The US government was slowing down the immigration process from Europe, trying to cope with the large number of immigrants and refugees from Europe (mostly Jews fleeing persecution).
5. Name two ways in which the Franks prepared for their entry into the hideout.
They left a note with an address in Maastricht, Otto Frank transferred all his business interests to Aryan friends. Students might also mention the friends who knew where they were and the disguised bookcase staircase that hid their whereabouts.
6. List three difficulties Anne and her family encountered while living in the secret annexe.
Students might infer the cramped conditions of the place. They might also mention the lack of ability to go outside, the reliance on others for food, news, etc. They might mention boredom, as inferred from the hours of keeping quiet. Mentions of making little sound, only going downstairs in the evening or on weekends, the bathing in the kitchen, etc. will also work.
7. List two things you've learned about Anne's diary from the article.
Students might mention the colour of the book (red and white check), the fact it had a lock, that it was actually an autograph book given to Anne on her birthday. They might also look to the contents – the article mentions her discussing her feelings about her mother, sister, father and Peter in it. The diary also deals with issues of living under the Nazi regime and tells of the news they hear from outside.
8. How long had the Franks been in hiding when they were discovered?
Just over two years (July 1942 – August 1944).
9. What happened to Peter van Pels after the group's arrest?
Peter died from exhaustion at Mauthausen Concentration Camp on the day of the liberation of the Netherlands, May 1945.
10. Why did Otto Frank decide to publish Anne's diary?
She had expressed a desire to write something called 'The Secret Annexe' and have it published after the war. Otto Frank was doing the best to fulfil his daughter's wishes.

Extension

Anne was told to pack what she could into her school satchel as they prepared to go into hiding. She said 'Preoccupied by the thought of going into hiding, I stuck the craziest things in the satchel, but I'm not sorry. Memories mean more to me than dresses.' What would you take with you on a journey like this? Why?

Students might look at the specific section of the diary in which Anne discusses what she quickly throws into her satchel and the section discussing how they leave their house swaddled in layers of clothing because they cannot be seen carrying suitcases through the streets. (8th and 9th July 1942) They may find this information useful in formulating their ideas on a practical level or they may wish to respond to this by simply talking or writing about their most treasured possessions.

Imagine having to go into hiding like the Franks. Anne wrote this as they prepared to go: 'Hiding ... where would we hide? In the city? In the country? In a house? In a shack? When, where, how ...? These were the questions I wasn't allowed to ask, but they still kept running through my mind.' What might you write in your diary when you first realised that you were going to have to leave all your friends and possessions behind? Write out your imagined experience as a diary entry.

The diary entry mentioned is from 8th July 1942 and may be useful in helping students to form their own idea about diary entries. Will they, like Anne, use a fictional character as a basis for their diary entries (she always wrote to someone she named 'Kitty' although there is no evidence that this was an actual person/friend she remembered). Some students may find it easier, or you may wish to do this to practise another type of writing, to write this in letter form to a family member.

Find out about one of the other diarists mentioned in the article. What event were they a part of? Were they Jewish or from another group entirely? What legacy have they left the world? Can you find any copies/ translations of their writing? Complete a fact file with your research.

A fact file worksheet and a separate sheet about some of the other diaries retrieved from the Second World War is available in the pack to be used here.