

Name _____ Date _____

Getting Ready to Read

- 1. Anne and You** The diary entries you're going to read were written by a girl not much older than you. You'll probably recognize many of her feelings and problems as being much like those of people of your age today. With a partner, discuss some of the major problems kids struggle with in their families and with their friends. Write the problems on the lines below.

- 2. Anne's Situation** Anne wrote her diary in a situation that none of us would like to face. For two years, she had to stay hidden in a small apartment over a warehouse. During that time, she saw only her family, three other people hiding with them, and occasionally a few trusted friends. Yet in this small, secret world, Anne found plenty to write about. With a partner, discuss Anne's situation and predict some of the things you'll read about in her diary.

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The World Outside

As you read Anne's diary, look for answers to these questions. Discuss your answers with a partner, then write them below.

- 1.** In what country did Anne live when she started her diary? In what year did she begin the diary?

- 2.** Why did Anne and her family have to go into hiding? Who was hiding with them?

- 3.** What special safety measures did Anne and her family take in the hiding place? Explain why these measures were important.

- 4.** How did the people in the Secret Annexe get food, supplies, and news?

- 5.** In many of her diary entries, Anne shows her great interest in the war that's raging in the world outside. What was D-Day? Tell why Anne was excited about this event.

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The World Inside

If Anne had told just about the outside world, her book would be a journal. But because Anne wrote about her inside world—her innermost thoughts and feelings—her book becomes a diary.

1. With a partner, reread the entries that tell about Anne’s experiences listed below. Write a sentence or two to summarize what Anne expresses about them.

Her feelings about her mother and sister

Her plans for a future career

Being impatient and bored

Falling in love

School and learning

2. Almost everyone who reads Anne’s diary remembers entries that are especially moving or exciting. With a group of classmates, discuss the entries that are especially important to you. Precede your discussion by making a few notes.

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A Safe Diary and a Dangerous One

1. Anne wrote her diary as a series of letters. Who were the letters addressed to?

2. Why did Anne think this format was a safe one?

3. The Nazis tried to destroy all writings by the groups they persecuted. Why do you think such writings represented a danger to Nazis?

4. Though Anne didn't escape the Nazis, her diary did. It's been called one of the greatest witnesses to the horrors of World War II. How can written words be a witness? With some classmates, discuss this question. Then write your answer.

5. Anne meant her diary to be private, as most diaries are. Yet a few years after her death in a concentration camp, her father allowed the diary to be published. Do you think Mr. Frank's decision was right? Explain.
