



[The Diary of a Young Girl](#), by Anne Frank

In A Nutshell

Anne Frank wanted to be a writer. It's both wonderful and tragic that Anne indeed became a well-known writer around the world, but only after her death in a Nazi concentration camp. This diary is the story of Anne's life as a young Jewish girl in hiding from the Nazis. When her family's hiding place, the "Secret Annex" was raided, her Anne and her family were imprisoned in concentration camps.

Anne's diary, a wonderful coming-of-age story, was left behind in the Secret Annex, but kept safe by a family friend, Miep Gies. Anne's father, Otto Frank, was the Secret Annex's sole survivor of the Holocaust. After Otto was liberated from a concentration camp, Miep gave him the diary. Otto Frank edited the diary and removed a few sensitive passages – some that weren't so nice about Anne's mom, other Secret Annex members, or parts that seemed too sexual for a teenager in the 1940s. However, the most currently printed versions are more complete.

The Diary of a Young Girl was first published in 1947 in Dutch as *Het Achterhuis* (Secret Annex). The first English edition, published in 1952, instantly had a powerful impact. It was produced as a play in 1955 and a film in 1959. In 1960, the building containing the Secret Annex was made into a museum called The Anne Frank House. Anne's diary has inspired numerous educational and human rights organizations in her name.

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Big Picture Study Questions

- 1 Consider the implications of the diary format. Are there any parts of the diary that you question? Which parts do you completely trust?
- 2 Why is a diary an effective way to learn about World War II? What can you learn from a diary like Anne Frank 's that you can 't learn from other sources? What does a diary like Anne Frank 's leave out that you need other sources to learn?
- 3 Why has Anne Frank 's diary had such a huge impact in the world? Did her diary have a strong personal impact on you as well?

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