

Reading Comprehension

Anne Frank's Diary

Anne Frank was one of over a million Jewish children who died in the Holocaust. We know about her because she wrote a diary for two years between 1942 and the 1944 she was an ordinary teenager who wrote about her experiences, thoughts and feelings during The Nazi occupation.

Anne Frank was born on the 12th of June 1929 in Frankfurt, in Germany to a Jewish family. Her father Otto was a businessman and she had an older sister Margot. In 1933 Adolf Hitler became the leader of Germany. He persecuted the Jews and blamed them for many of the problems in his country, so many Jewish families left Germany. In 1934 the Frank family went to live in the Netherlands. Anne was only four but she learned Dutch and felt at home in the new country. When the Germans invaded The Netherlands in May 1940, life changed. Jews had to wear a yellow star on their coats, they couldn't work, have businesses or do ordinary things like going to the cinema. Soon the Nazis started sending Jewish people to work camps. In July 1942 Ann's sister received a letter which ordered her to go. Otto Frank didn't want Margot to leave, so the family hid in a secret place where The Nazis couldn't find them. The secret Annex was behind the wall in his office and it had everything the family needed in it. The Frank family lived in secret for two years but on the 4th of August 1944 the police discovered the Frank family and their Secret Annex. They sent the family to concentration camps in Germany: Anne and Margot went to Bergen-Belsen, their parents went to Auschwitz. Anne and Margot died of illness in March 1945 just a few weeks before the liberation over the camp. Talk to Frank was the only person in the family to survive. He found Ann's diary when he returned to Amsterdam after the war. In 1947, he published it as "Anne Frank, Diary of a young girl". Its message of hope and courage is an inspiration to all generations.

Glossary : **Thoughts**: pensieri-**persecute**: perseguitare-**blame**: incolpare-**survive**: sopravvivere -
treat: trattare- **farm truck** : camion da bestiame

An extract from Anne's Diary

"They are taking away many of our Jewish friends. The Gestapo is treating them very badly and transporting them on farm trucks to Westerbork. They are sending all the Jews there...If it's so bad in Holland, what's it like in the camps in Germany? We listened to the English radio and they said that the Nazi soldiers are killing Jewish people in the camps with gas.."

Read and answer to the following questions

1. Why is Anne Frank famous ?
2. What did she write about ?
3. Why did Jewish people emigrate from Germany?
4. What was life like for the Jews in the Netherlands during the German occupation?
5. Why was Margot's letter important?
6. What was the Secret Annex ?
7. What happened when the police discovered the Secret Annex?
8. What is the extract from Anne's Diary about?
9. Why is the diary an inspiration to people?
10. Why do you think people still remember Anne Frank?

