

Anne Frank Reading Passage

Anne Frank was born in Frankfurt in June 1929. At age 1934, she moved to Amsterdam, in the Netherlands, with her family. The Nazi party had just taken power in Germany, and Anne and her family were Jewish. They were among the 300,000 who left Nazi Germany in the years between 1933 and 1939. She was a good student, had many friends, and led a relatively normal life, until Germany invaded the Netherlands in 1940.

The occupying Germans began to persecute Jewish people immediately. They passed laws which segregated Jewish communities from the rest of the population, right down to the schools. Her father tried to get the family to the United States, where he figured they would be safe from persecution, but in 1941 the United States closed its doors on refugees, and they were forced to stay in the Netherlands.

Anne's father, who ran two companies, had to cede his ownership of them to others, as businesses run by Jews were being confiscated by the Nazis. In 1942, Anne Frank received a diary as a gift for her birthday.

In response to increased persecution of Jews by the Germans, and communications summoning them to go to a work camp, the Franks went into hiding. They ransacked their own apartment to make it look like they had fled, and Anne's father spread the notion that they were running to Switzerland. Instead, Anne, her father, her mother, and her sister **Margot**, moved to a secret set of rooms in the building which housed Anne's father's offices.

Only four employees, those most loyal to them, knew that they were there. The door to the rooms was concealed by a bookcase. The four employees would tell the Franks about what was going on in the world, and give them food so they didn't starve. As time went on, the Franks were joined by the **Pels** family.

The Franks and the Pels would spend two years hidden in these rooms, and Anne noted everything that happened carefully in her diary. She wrote about the romance she formed with the son of the Pels family, about how she got along with her parents, and about her hopes and dreams to one day become a journalist.

She wrote almost every single day until the first of August, 1944. Three days later, German police stormed the secret room and arrested everyone in it. To this day, it is not known how the Franks were found, but it's possible someone had betrayed them. The Franks were taken to a transit camp for a month, then transported to **Auschwitz**. Once there,

Anne was separated from her father. She had her head shaved and a number tattooed onto her arm, and lived in horrific conditions with little to eat.

A month later, Anne and Margot were transported to **Bergen-Belsen**, where they ultimately died, most likely of typhus. Anne was 15 years old at the time. Her mother later died of starvation. Her father was the only one to survive until the end of the war. He eventually received her diary from a friend who had kept it after their arrest, and decided to publish it.

When she first started writing, Anne had no idea her private, personal words would be read by the whole world. Her diary shows the mind of a normal young girl who has to deal with the horrible realities of fascism firsthand, and is ultimately destroyed by it. That's why her words are so important today.

A. Reading Comprehension Questions

1) Which of the following describes Anne Frank?

A: Christian

B: Jewish

C: Buddhist

D: Atheist

2) The Frank family had to move to the Netherlands because of which of the following?

A: The Nazis were persecuting Jews

B: They couldn't afford to live in Germany

C: They wanted to

D: They were involved in organized crime

3) What did Anne write about in her diary?

A: Her relationship with her family

B: Her romance with a boy her age

C: The day-to-day life of a refugee in hiding

D: All of the above

4) Which of the following tells why Anne stopped writing in her diary?

- A: She ran out of pages
- B: She stopped wanting to write
- C: It isn't known
- D: She was arrested by the Nazis

5) How old was Anne when she died?

- A: 12
- B: 13
- C: 14
- D: 15

6) Why is Anne Frank's diary so important?

- A: She was rich
- B: She used really big words
- C: She gave unique perspective on the horrors of fascism
- D: She was a Nazi sympathizer

B. Vocabulary Questions

What does the word "persecute" most likely mean in the sentence: "The occupying Germans began to persecute Jewish people immediately"?

- a) To harm or treat unfairly
- b) To celebrate or honor
- c) To teach or educate
- d) To invite or welcome

(Hint: Think about what the Germans did to the Jewish people according to the passage.)

What does the word "segregated" mean in the sentence: "They passed laws which segregated Jewish communities from the rest of the population"?

- a) United or brought together

- b) Separated or isolated
- c) Improved or enhanced
- d) Destroyed or damaged

(Hint: The laws made Jewish people live and interact separately from others.)

What does "cede" mean in the sentence: "Anne's father, who ran two companies, had to cede his ownership of them to others"?

- a) Keep or maintain
- b) Share or divide
- c) Surrender or give up
- d) Sell or trade

(Hint: The Nazis did not allow Jews to own businesses.)

What does the word "ransacked" mean in the sentence: "They ransacked their own apartment to make it look like they had fled"?

- a) Cleaned up
- b) Destroyed or searched thoroughly
- c) Protected or saved
- d) Locked or secured

(Hint: The Franks wanted to make it seem like they had left quickly.)

What does "concealed" mean in the sentence: "The door to the rooms was concealed by a bookcase"?

- a) Made visible
- b) Hidden or covered
- c) Decorated or painted
- d) Replaced or removed

(Hint: The Franks did not want anyone to find the door.)

What does "betrayed" mean in the sentence: "To this day, it is not known how the Franks were found, but it's possible someone had betrayed them"?

- a) Protected or defended
- b) Revealed information against them
- c) Trusted or relied on
- d) Fought alongside them

(Hint: Someone might have given the Nazis information about the secret room.)

What does "horrific" mean in the sentence: "She had her head shaved and a number tattooed onto her arm, and lived in horrific conditions"?

- a) Amazing or impressive
- b) Terrible or dreadful
- c) Normal or average
- d) Exciting or adventurous

(Hint: The conditions in Auschwitz were extremely bad.)

What does "typhus" mean in the sentence: "Anne and Margot were transported to Bergen-Belsen, where they ultimately died, most likely of typhus"?

- a) A type of weather condition
- b) A dangerous infectious disease
- c) A form of physical injury
- d) A kind of food poisoning

(Hint: Typhus is often spread in places with poor cleanliness.)

What does "fascism" mean in the sentence: "Her diary shows the mind of a normal young girl who has to deal with the horrible realities of fascism firsthand"?

- a) A system that promotes equality and fairness
- b) A political system based on dictatorship and oppression
- c) A set of religious beliefs
- d) A form of economic strategy

(Hint: Fascism often involves strict control and loss of personal freedoms.)

What does "ultimately" mean in the sentence: "Anne and Margot were transported to Bergen-Belsen, where they ultimately died"?

- a) Eventually or in the end
- b) Quickly or immediately
- c) Accidentally or by mistake
- d) Secretly or without notice

(Hint: It refers to what happened to them after some time.)
