

INTRODUCTION

Diary of a Young Girl is the diary written by Anne Frank, a thirteen year old Jewish girl, while she was in hiding from the Nazis during World War II.

This integrated unit was written for Grades 7 to 9. It consists of work on vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension, creative writing, research, topics for discussion, drama and art. It can be used as an independent study or for group work. There are also activity cards for further research for enrichment purposes and cards to stimulate discussion and give the students to formulate and express their own opinions.

Record sheets for students and the teacher, a list of resources, teacher, peer and self evaluation sheets and an answer key are also included.

This study is based on the original diary entries written by Anne Frank beginning when she was thirteen on June 14, 1942, and ending with the final entry on August 1, 1944. Her diary, like that of most adolescents was private and written for herself. However in 1944 she heard a radio broadcast in which a member of the Dutch government in exile, said that he wanted to collect and make public eyewitness accounts of the occupation and would be interested in letters and diaries written during this time. This interested Anne and she thought her diary might be of interest, so she went back and revised some of the entries made earlier.

When Mr. Frank decided to publish the diary, he used the entries made when she was thirteen and used some of the revisions made later. He also edited out some of the discussion of sex and her negative feelings about her family, as he did not consider that proper. This edition was published in 1947.

Later the complete diary, including entries that were not included in the earlier edition, was published. This is known as the definitive edition of the diary.

Anne used synonyms for some of the people who hid in the Secret Annexe, but not for her own family. The Van Daan family were really Auguste, Hermann and Peter Van Pels and Alfred Dussel was a dentist called Fritz Pfeffer.

The original entries were written in Dutch, and the diary has been translated into many languages. There may be some variations in the actual translations that you are using, but the content of the entries is the same.

A list of resources is given, and it would be beneficial if a number of books, both nonfiction and novels were made available to the students. It is essential that such resources be previewed by the teacher to ensure their suitability for the class.

In addition to studying the unit some work on the rise of the Nazi Party, its aims and how this led to World War II should be included.