

From the Diary of Anne Frank

Introduction

The present chapter is an extract from the novel, 'The Diary of a Young Girl'. This novel was based on the diary entries made by Anneliese Marie 'Anne' Frank between 12 June, 1942 to 1 August, 1944. She was a Jewish girl and had become one of the most renowned and discussed of the Holocaust victims.

Summary

In this chapter, Anne specifies her reasons for writing a diary. She says that she is writing it because she does not have one true friend and there are a number of things that she wants to get off her chest, so, for her, the diary is actually a friend, whom she decides to call 'Kitty'.

She starts by introducing herself. Here, she tells us about the early days of her life. She says that she decided to write a diary because she has no friends.

She was born on 12 June, 1929. She had a sister **Margot**, who was **three years older** to her. She lived in Frankfurt until she was four. Her father immigrated to **Holland in 1933**. She was sent to **Montessori school** and stayed there until she was six. Then she started in the first standard. **When she was in sixth standard**, her teacher was Mrs Kuperus, the headmistress. Both had great love for each other. Her grandma died in January 1942. She confesses that she misses her very much.

This chapter is based on her diary entry made on **20th June, 1942**. In this entry, she talks about the fears and apprehensions of her classmates regarding their promotion to the next form. **Anne**, however, is sure that she will be promoted. She then describes her experience with her mathematics teacher, Mr Keesing.

She writes that one day Mr Keesing had punished her for talking in the class. He asked her to write an essay on 'A Chatterbox'. He liked the essay written by her. **But Anne could not give up the habit of talking in the class**. The next time, as a punishment, Mr Keesing asked her to write an essay on 'An Incurable Chatterbox'. Anne again wrote the essay and handed it over to Mr Keesing. But she still could not give up her habit of talking in class. So, Mr Keesing came up with an unusual title 'Quack, Quack, Quack, Said Mistress Chatterbox' and asked Anne to write an essay on it. Anne wrote this essay in the form of a poem with the help of her friend Sanne. It was about a mother duck and a father swan. The father bit the three ducklings to death because they quacked too much. This was a satire on Mr Keesing. Surprisingly, he took the humour in the right way. He read the poem to Anne's class and other classes too. He allowed Anne to talk in the class and never again gave her extra homework. He now also jokes with her.

Message

This story conveys the message that if one's intentions are harmless then the elders also understand and accept their outlook.



Extract Based Questions

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

'Paper has more patience than people.' I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was, brooding.

- (a) Anne was feeling:

- (i) listless (ii) bored
(iii) depressed (iv) All of these

- (b) According to Anne paper

- (c) Anne finally:

- (i) went out (ii) became happy
(iii) stayed at home (iv) None of these

- (d) What was Anne wondering about?

Answers

- (a) (iv) All of these
(b) has more patience than people.
(c) (iii) stayed at home
(d) Anne was wondering whether to stay at home or go out. She was feeling a little depressed, bored and listless. So, she was wondering about what she would do.

2. Read the given extract to attempt the questions that follow:

Let me put it more clearly, since no one will believe that a thirteen-years-old girl is completely alone in the world. And I'm not. I have loving parents and a sixteen-years-old sister, and there are about thirty people I can call friends. I have a family, loving aunts and a good home. No, on the surface I

seem to have everything, except my one true friend. All I think about when I'm with friends is having a good time. I can't bring myself to talk about anything but ordinary everyday things. (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1 Modified)

- (a) Why does Anne feel the following?

...no one will believe that a thirteen-years-old girl is completely alone in the world.

1. People knew she had a family.
2. People rejected the idea of loneliness.
3. She had several friends.
4. She had a cheerful personality.
5. Her life was comfortable.

Choose the correct option from the following:

- (i) 1 and 5
(ii) 1, 3 and 4
(iii) 2 and 3
(iv) 2, 4 and 5

- (b) How's Anne's tone in the extract?

- (c) What do we get to know about Anne when she says the following?

I can't bring myself to talk about anything but ordinary everyday things.

Choose one from the following to answer:

- (i) She is proud of her ways.
(ii) She is struggling to strike conversations.
(iii) She is unsure of her own thoughts.
(iv) She is unable to have a satisfying conversation.

- (d) Was Anne completely alone in the world?

Answers

- (a) (ii) 1, 3 and 4
(b) She is dissatisfied.

- (c) (iv) She is unable to have a satisfying conversation.
 (d) No, Anne wasn't completely alone in the world. She had loving parents and a sixteen-year-old sister and about thirty people she could call friends. But she didn't have one true friend.

3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

My father, the most adorable father I've ever seen, didn't marry my mother until he was thirty-six and she was twenty-five. My sister, Margot, was born in Frankfurt in Germany in 1926. I was born on 12 June, 1929. I lived in Frankfurt until I was four. My father emigrated to Holland in 1933. My mother, Edith Hollander Frank, went with him to Holland in September, while Margot and I were sent to Aachen to stay with our grandmother. Margot went to Holland in December and I followed in February, when I was plunked down on the table as a birthday present for Margot.

(a) Anne's father married at the age of:

- (i) twenty-five (ii) thirty-six
 (iii) thirty-five (iv) twenty-six

(b) Margot was:

- (i) Anne's younger sister (ii) Anne's aunt
 (iii) Anne's elder sister (iv) None of these

(c) Why was Anne sent to Aachen?

(d) Substitute the word 'adorable' with one word similar in meaning in the following sentence:

My father, the most adorable father I've ever seen

Answers

- (a) (ii) thirty-six
 (b) (iii) Anne's elder sister
 (c) Anne's father emigrated to Holland in 1933. Her mother went with him to Holland in September, while Anne's elder sister and Anne were sent to Aachen to stay with their grandmother.
 (d) lovable

4. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

I started my studies right away at the Montessori nursery school. I stayed there until I was six, at which time I started in the first form. In the sixth form, my teacher was Mrs Kuperus, the headmistress. At the end of the year, we were both in tears as we said a heartbreaking farewell.

In the summer of 1941, Grandma fell ill and had to have an operation, so my birthday passed with little celebration.

(CBSE 2023)

(a) The narrator 'I' refers to:

- (i) Mr Keesing (ii) Mrs Kuperus
 (iii) Anne Frank (iv) Miss Margot

(b) The phrase 'right away' in this extract most nearly means:

- (i) with delay (ii) the correct way
 (iii) immediately (iv) overtaking from right

(c) What does the narrator mean by saying 'we were both in tears'?

(d) Complete the analogy by selecting a word from the text:

dawn : dusk :: mourning :

(e) Select the option that correctly captures the application of the word 'form' as used in the extract.

- (i) Raghav was in good form while playing the match.
 (ii) Saheb was promoted to the next form after the annual exam.
 (iii) My brother did not know how to form a circle.
 (iv) Anne saw the form on the headmaster's desk.

Answers

- (a) (iii) Anne Frank
 (b) (iii) Immediately
 (c) Here Anne Frank shows the level of connection between her and her teacher. They both didn't want to be separated, but they had to.
 (d) celebration
 (e) (ii) Saheb was promoted to the next form after the annual exam.

5. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

I wrote the three pages Mr Keesing had assigned me and was satisfied. I argued that talking is a student's trait and that I would do my best to keep it under control, but that I would never be able to cure myself of the habit since my mother talked as much as I did, if not more, and that there's not much one can do about inherited traits. (CBSE 2023)

(a) Who was Mr Keesing?

- (i) Maths teacher
 (ii) Social Science teacher
 (iii) Warden
 (iv) Principal

(b) According to the extract, the incorrigible habit possessed by the speaker was:

- I. making noise in class
 II. talking too much
 III. procrastinating
 IV. coming late to class
 V. asking irritating questions

Select the correct option:

- (i) I and III (ii) Only II
 (iii) I, IV and V (iv) Only III

(c) Complete the analogy by selecting the suitable word from the extract.

routine : habit :: characteristic :

(d) Select the reason why the narrator is unable to control her trait.

- (i) She had deliberately practised it.
 (ii) She wanted to be different from her brother.
 (iii) Her teacher had encouraged her to continue as she was.
 (iv) She had inherited it.

(e) Which of the following most nearly means the opposite of the phrase 'under control'?

- (i) To spend less
- (ii) Unable to take on the challenge
- (iii) Find it difficult to manage
- (iv) Being very stubborn

Answers

- (a) (i) Maths teacher
- (b) (ii) Only II
- (c) trait
- (d) (iv) She had Inherited It.
- (e) (iii) Find It difficult to manage

Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. What does Anne think about herself?

Ans. Anne thinks that she is a lonely thirteen-year old school girl. She is not able to confide in her friends. She does not have a true friend. So, she decides to make her diary her best friend.

Q 2. Why does Anne think that 'paper' has more patience than 'people'?

Ans. Anne thinks that 'paper' has more patience than 'people' because paper is a silent recorder of one's thoughts. It is non-judgemental and patient. A paper does not interrupt a person. People, on the other hand, rarely listen and they also interrupt when someone else is talking.

Q 3. Kitty was a trusted friend to Anne. Elaborate.

(CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Ans. Kitty was a trusted friend to Anne. It allowed her to express her thoughts and feelings freely without fear of rejection. It provided her with a space to confide in and unburden herself to, serving as a form of therapy for her loneliness and isolation. It couldn't talk back but the act of writing and personifying the diary as a friend gave Anne a sense of comfort and companionship. It also gave her a sense of privacy and security—she felt that she could write down her innermost thoughts and feelings without fear of judgement or ridicule.

Q 4. Why does Anne Frank feel diary writing is a strange experience?

OR

What makes writing a diary a strange experience for Anne Frank?

(CBSE 2016)

Ans. Anne Frank feels diary writing is a strange experience due to two reasons. The first reason is that it is her first chance to write a diary. The second reason is that she thinks that no one would be interested in reading the thoughts of a school going girl of thirteen.

Q 5. Was Anne right when she said that the world would not be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old girl?

Ans. No, Anne was not right in her speculation that people would not be interested in her musings. On the

contrary, her diary has become one of the world's most widely read books. It has been translated into many languages.

Q 6. What does Anne Frank say about her family?

Ans. Anne Frank speaks highly of her family. She says that she has loving parents. Her father is adorable. She has a sixteen-year-old sister named Margot. She has loving aunts and a good home too.

Q 7. What does Anne Frank tell about her childhood?

Ans. Anne Frank tells us that she was born on 12 June, 1929. She lived in Frankfurt until she was four. Her parents emigrated to Holland in 1933. Later, they joined their parents in Holland.

Q 8. What does Anne say about her early education?

Ans. Anne says that she started her early education at the Montessori Nursery School in Holland. She stayed there until she was six. Then, she started in the first form. In the sixth grade, her teacher was Mrs Kuperus. She was the headmistress. After her sixth grade, she changed her school.

Q 9. Why did Margot and Anne stay with their grandmother?

(CBSE 2019)

Ans. Margot and Anne's father emigrated to Holland in September 1933. Their mother also went with him. So, Margot and Anne were sent to Aachen to stay with their grandmother. Margot joined her parents in December 1933 and Anne followed in February 1934.

Q 10. What tells you that Anne loved her grandmother?

Ans. In the summer of 1941, Anne's grandmother fell ill and had to undergo an operation. Due to that, she had little celebration on her birthday. Also, after her grandma's death in 1942, she lit a candle in her name during her birthday celebration. These incidents convey that she loved her grandmother very much.

Q 11. Why was Anne's entire class anxious and nervous?

Ans. Anne says that her entire class was anxious and nervous because of the upcoming meeting in which it was to be decided that who will be promoted to the next form and who will be detained.

Q 12. What was the punishment that Mr Keesing gave to Anne Frank for the first time?

Ans. Mr Keesing did not like Anne Frank's talkative nature. So, he gave her an essay to write. He wanted to change her talkative nature, so the topic of the essay was 'A Chatterbox'.

Q 13. How did Mr Keesing react to Anne's first essay?

OR

What did Anne write in her first essay? (CBSE 2020)

Ans. Anne talked a lot in the classroom. So, her maths teacher Mr Keesing, gave her an essay to write on the topic, 'A Chatterbox'. In her essay, Anne came up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking. She wrote that it was a student's trait to talk. She also wrote that she would never be able to cure herself of this habit because her mother talked as much as she did and she cannot do much

about inherited traits. Mr Keesing had a good laugh at Anne's arguments. He enjoyed reading her essay.

Q 14. How did Sanne help Anne Frank in writing the third essay? (CBSE 2020)

Ans. Mr Keesing gave Anne Frank a very unusual essay to write as punishment for talking in class. It was 'Quack, Quack, Quack, Said Mistress Chatterbox'. For this, she took the help of her friend Sanne, who was good at poetry. With Sanne's help, Anne wrote the essay from beginning to end in a verse. Mr Keesing liked it very much and after that he stopped giving punishment assignments to Anne.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. 'Diary Writing' is an important quality. Sometimes, it may prove a boon. Explain with reference to your reading of 'From the Diary of Anne Frank'.

Ans. Undoubtedly, 'Diary Writing' is an important quality. Sometimes, this quality proves a boon to us. We can take the example of Anne Frank. She had a habit of writing diary and that's why we are presently reading about her. She wrote everything about herself, and through her diary now she has become a famous figure in the world. If she did not had this habit, we might not be able to know about her.

Diaries make us immortal. There are many examples in the world that the people who wrote their experiences in their diaries became famous personalities later on, because of their diary writing quality.

This habit can also remind us of the past events whenever we may need it.

Q 2. What do you know about Anne? Why did she decide to write her personal diary?

OR

Why does Anne wants to keep a diary? (CBSE 2019)

Ans. Anne is a thirteen-year-old school girl. She has a good family. She has loving parents and a sixteen-year-old sister. She was born on 12 June, 1929. She lived in Frankfurt until she was four. Her father emigrated to Holland, where he was later joined by her mother. Anne and her sister were sent to Aachen where they lived with their grandmother. Later, they also joined their parents in Holland. She was a good student and a favourite with her teachers and was also good at writing essays. She was also a chatterbox. Anne decided to write her personal diary because she felt that she had no true friend to whom she could confide her inner feelings. She also thinks that paper has more patience than people. So, this also motivates her to write.

Q 3. How does Anne feel about her father, her grandmother, Mrs Kuperus and Mr Keesing? What do these tell you about her?

Ans. Anne loved her father dearly and considered him the most adorable father. She also loved her grandmother and often remembered her. She lit

a candle on her birthday in her remembrance. Mrs Kuperus was Anne's sixth grade teacher and headmistress. The fact that both had a tearful and heartbreaking farewell, shows that they loved and were attached to each other. She considered Mr Keesing, her Mathematics teacher, an old fogey. She annoyed him by talking constantly in his class. When Mr Keesing punished Anne by asking her to write essays on a ridiculous topics, she gave convincing arguments in support of her talking and wrote beautiful essays which he appreciated. All these relationships show that Anne was a loving, affectionate, creative and intelligent girl.

Q 4. On the basis of your reading of 'From the Diary of Anne Frank', draw a character-sketch of Anne. (CBSE 2016)

Ans. Though Anne was just thirteen-years-old, she was pretty mature for her age. She was very intelligent and perceptive and wanted to become a writer. Anne grows from an innocent, precocious and somewhat petty teenage girl to an emphatic and sensitive thinker.

She is appreciative of her gifts and says that she feels blessed to have a loving family. She is greatly attached to her father and misses her grandmother dearly. She is also a good student and all her teachers love her. She does not hesitate to play harmless jokes on her teachers. This is indicative of the fact that she is a bold girl.

When Mr Keesing gave her extra assignments as a punishment for her being talkative, she wrote them with witty intelligence and was able to befriend even Mr Keesing.

Q 5. Why was Anne's teacher annoyed with her? How was she able to bring about a change in his attitude towards her?

OR

How did Mr Keesing's attitude towards Anne change? (CBSE 2019)

Ans. Anne's teacher, Mr Keesing, was annoyed with her because of her being so talkative in the class, and punished her by giving her unusual topics to write essays. The first topic given to Anne was 'A Chatterbox'. Mr Keesing gave this topic so that Anne could be dissuaded from talking. Instead Anne wrote an essay in which she justified the importance of talking. Mr Keesing was quite amused. He then gave an essay to be written on 'An Incurable Chatterbox'. Anne again wrote it and handed it over. Still she did not gave up talking. So, finally he ordered her to write an essay on 'Quack, Quack, Quack, Said Mistress Chatterbox'. By now, Anne had nearly exhausted her ingenuity on the topic of chatterboxes. She wanted to write something original. So, she took the help of her friend Sanne who was good at poetry. She helped Anne to write the essay in the form of a poem. When Anne finished the poem, she was happy with her work. She made sure that the joke in her poem was aimed at Mr Keesing. It was about

a mother duck and a father swan with three baby ducklings, who were bitten to death by the father because they quacked too much.

Luckily, Mr Keesing took the joke the right way. He shared the poem with other classes as well. Since then, Anne was allowed to talk and was not assigned any extra homework.

Q 6. Anne says teachers are most unpredictable. Is Mr Keesing unpredictable? How?

Ans. Anne gives this remark when the teachers were about to decide who should go to the next form. According to her, about a quarter of her class were not fit to be promoted. But she thought that the teachers are the most unpredictable creatures. They might or might not promote them.

Anne seems to have the same opinion about Mr Keesing. In her first punishment essay, she gives some convincing arguments in favour of her talkativeness, to which Mr Keesing laughs heartily. She might have thought that she would not be punished in future, but she gets another and yet another essay to write as punishments.

The topic of her last punishment essay was—'Quack, Quack Said Mistress Chatterbox'. By assigning this ridiculous topic, Mr Keesing, perhaps, wanted to play a joke on her. But Anne played the joke back on him by symbolising him as Mr Swan who bit three ducklings because they talked too much. She was not sure how Mr Keesing would take the joke. Luckily, Mr Keesing took the joke in the right way. He appreciated what Anne had written, added his comments and read it to many other classes. Above all, she was allowed to talk and was assigned no more extra homework. This was unexpected.

Q 7. Describe the character of Mr Keesing.

Ans. Mr Keesing was an old-fashioned teacher of mathematics in Anne's school. He was a very strict teacher by nature. He did not allow students to talk in

his class. Anne was a very talkative girl. He gave her several warnings. But when she did not stop talking, he punished her by giving her extra homework. He gave her three essays to write on different topics viz. 'A Chatterbox', 'An Incurable Chatterbox', and 'Quack, Quack, Said Mistress Chatterbox'. All these topics were given with a view to dissuade Anne from talking. His choice of topics reveal that he was humorous. He enjoyed reading Anne's essays. He was a keen observer. After reading Anne's third essay, he changed completely. He stopped giving punishments to Anne. It represents that he was a sensitive person by heart.

Q 8. 'From the Diary of Anne Frank' throws light on the teacher-student relationship, class atmosphere and discipline. Write a paragraph on the values of these aspects of school and how far these values are necessary for learning in life.

Ans. 'From the Diary of Anne Frank' throws enough light on teacher-student relationship, class atmosphere, discipline, teaching, etc. Mr Keesing is Anne's teacher. He punishes her for speaking in the class. This punishment is for her own betterment. So, he can't really be blamed for punishing Anne. Actually, he represents the value of a teacher. A teacher always thinks for the betterment of the students. The teacher-student relationship should be sacred and respectful. It is a matter of discipline and congenial classroom atmosphere. A good teacher-student relationship is shown between Mr Keesing and Anne. She turns the humour against Mr Keesing in her last essay. Mr Keesing comprehends and laughs with the entire class. Thus, a healthy relationship should be the basis of teacher-student relationship in school. ●