

Chapter 4

From the Diary of Anne Frank

Q1. What makes writing in a diary a strange experience for Anne Frank?

Ans.: Writing in a diary was a really strange experience for Anne Frank because firstly, she had never written anything before. Secondly, she thought that neither she nor anyone else would be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old school girl later on. But she went on with it because she wanted to get rid of the various kinds of thought she hid in her mind.

Q.2 Why does Anne want to keep a diary?

Ans.: Anne didn't have any real friends to share her feelings and thoughts with. Further, she believed that paper had more patience than people and so she wanted to get all kinds of things off her chest and confide her innermost perceptions of different things with the diary.

Q.3 Why did Anne think she could confide more in her diary than in people?

Ans. Anne believed that paper had more patience than people and thought that she could freely express herself in her diary. Additionally, given the fact that Anne did not have that one trustworthy friend in her life, She was prompted to trust the diary more than the people around her.

Q4. Why does Anne provide a brief sketch of her life?

Ans.: Anne provides a brief sketch of her life because she thought that no one would understand a word of her musings without knowing her background i.e. about her family, friends and the environment she had. grown up in.

Q5.What tells you that Anne loved her grandmother?

Ans.: Anne's grandmother died in January 1942. The line mentioned by Anne i.e. "No one knows how often I think of her and still love her" gives us a deep insight into the feelings of sadness that surrounded her and the magnitude of love that she had for her grandmother. Further, the lighting of a candle by Anne on her birthday to mark the loving memory of her grandmother brings together those poignant feelings that hid inside Anne.

Q.6 Do you think Mr. Keesing was a strict teacher?

Ans.: Yes, Mr. Keesing was a strict teacher. He did not allow students to talk in his class as he wanted them to concentrate on their studies. He often punished Anne for talking in between classes by giving her essays and extra work. However, he appreciated Anne for her strong arguments every time which can be traced from the instance when Mr. Keesing read out her beautiful poem on the topic Quack

Quack Quack, said Mistress Chatterbox. Such an instance shows that he was not only a strict teacher but also a fun loving person.

Q7.What made Mr. Keesing allow Anne to talk in the class?

Ans.: Anne was able to justify herself by giving strong arguments every time Mr. Keesing gave her a topic for writing. On three occasions, Anne was asked to do so however, she managed to impress Mr. Keesing every time with her unique ideas and opinions. Finally, Mr. Keesing gave up and accepted the talkative nature of Anne and allowed her to talk in the class.

Q8. 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 when she said that the world would not be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old girl because after her death her diary became very popular and was translated into several languages. It emerged to be a very successful piece of writing and was widely read.

Q9.There are some examples of diary or journal entries in the 'Before You Read' Section. Compare these with what Anne writes in her diary. What language was the diary originally written in? In what way is Anne's diary different?

Ans.: Though Anne was only thirteen when she started writing her diary, yet she became very famous when her diary got published after her death. It was translated into several languages and became one of the most popular books in the world. It was originally written in the Dutch language. Anne's diary is different from other diaries in various ways because Anne considered her diary Kitty to be her closest and true friend with whom she shared very minute details of her life.

Q10.Why does Anne need to give a brief sketch of her family? Does she treat 'Kitty' as an insider or an outsider?

Ans.: Anne did not have a true friend with whom she could share her thoughts, personal feelings and experiences. She often felt depressed and alone. She thought that nobody would understand her musings and considered the need of giving a brief sketch of her family which comprised of an adorable father and mother, a kind grandmother and a caring elder sister. She named her diary 'Kitty', who became a true confidant and an insider to her.

Q11.How does Anne feel about her father, her grandmother, Mrs. Kuperus and Mr. Keesing? What do these tell you about her?

Ans.: Anne respected her father and claimed him to be the most adorable father in the whole world. She loved and missed her grandmother very much after her death in 1942. Mrs. Kuperus was the headmistress of her Montessori School and

her teacher as well in the sixth form. Both of them had a heartbreaking farewell at the end of the year. Mr. Keesing was a strict teacher who punished Anne for her talkative nature. However, Later Anne was able to bring about a change in his attitude tactfully through her strong and amusing arguments. All these instances show that Anne loved and respected her elders and teachers. She was both sensible and sensitive.

Q12. What does Anne write in her first essay?

Ans. In her first essay, Anne was given the task of writing on the subject "A Chatterbox" in which she had to present the necessity of talking. As she began thinking, she was able to write three pages in which she argued that talking was a student's trait but would do her best to control it. Further, she wrote that she would never be able to cure herself of this habit since her mother talked as much as she did and there was not much she could do about the inherited traits.

Q13. Anne says teachers are most unpredictable. Is Mr. Keesing unpredictable? How?

Ans.: According to Anne, Mr. Keesing could be termed as unpredictable. In the beginning, he was very strict and punished Anne by asking her to write essays on topics related to talking. In this way, he tried to play jokes on her in different ways. Each time Mr. Keesing gave Anne the topic for her essay; she smartly presented her arguments and successfully countered his jokes. Eventually, after Anne's third write up, his attitude towards her changed and he became very lenient. He never punished her after that and even allowed her to talk in the class.

Q14. What do these statements tell you about Anne Frank as a person?

(i) We don't seem to be able to get any closer, and that's the problem. Maybe it's my fault that we don't confide in each other.
(ii) I don't want to jot down the facts in a diary the way most people would, but I want the diary to be my friend. (iii) Margot went to Holland In December; I followed in February When I was plunked down on the table as a birthday present for Margot.

(iv) If you ask me, there are so many dummies that about a quarter of the class should be kept back, but teachers are the most unpredictable creatures on earth.

(v) Anyone could ramble on and leave big spaces between the words, but the trick was to come up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking.

Ans.:

(i) These lines show that Anne had no true confidence. She even does not hesitate to blame her own self for this loneliness.. (ii) These lines show that she wanted to pursue things in her own way. She doesn't want to maintain a diary only for jotting down the things but wanted the diary to be her true friend.

(iii) This sentence shows that Anne did not have a stable life from the very beginning of her early days of childhood.

(iv) This sentence shows that Anne is a very frank girl. She freely expresses her opinion about her class fellows as well as her teachers. (v) This sentence shows that Anne is no rambler*. She is a serious girl who wants to do her best and make it different in every way possible.

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