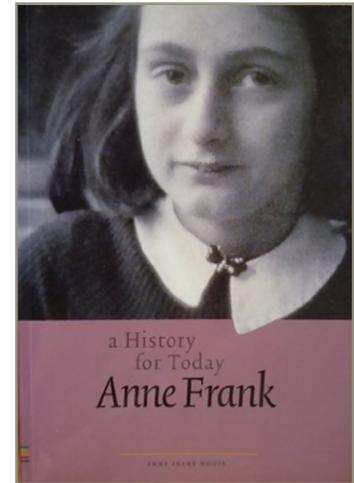


Anne Frank: A History for Today

Produced by: The Anne Frank House

Lexile®: not rated

Recommended grade levels: 7th–Adult



Background:

This book, written and produced by the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, recounts Anne Frank’s iconic story and does so beautifully with the incorporation of family photographs, passages from Anne’s diary, as well as survivor testimony. This resource is incredibly thorough and offers a new perspective on “Anne Frank literature,” as it is produced by the organization that has served the memory of Anne Frank since her death.

Young readers are successfully drawn to this book because of how aesthetically pleasing it is. Having several pictures on each page, as well as colorful font and backgrounds, gives the impression that one is actually seeing the life of Anne Frank, rather than simply reading about it.

By focusing on Anne’s story, yet still including the stories of many survivors, this book allows readers to understand that Anne’s personal story is shared by many, and in doing so, makes it easier for any reader to connect to and relate to Anne.

Notes on the Book:

- This book is broken down into over 20 short sections, each named and introduced by a quote from either Anne’s diary, someone who knew Anne, or a Holocaust survivor. These personal quotes relate directly to the historical information provided in each particular section.
- Every picture includes a caption, providing enough information for the reader to fully understand the image.
- A thorough background on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust is provided, as well as how it intersects with those hiding in the Annex.

Guiding Questions:

- (From the preface- page 5): Why is it important that other historical figures spoke and thought about Anne’s diary? What does this show you about the writing she produced?
- Why do you think the publishers of this book chose to include the testimony of Holocaust survivors? Did this help you in understanding Anne’s story in any way? (page 7)

- Looking at the quotes in this book from Anne’s diary, would you describe Anne as hopeful? Why or why not? (pages 8, 22, 30, 36, 40, 44, 51, 53-55, 57, 58, 80)
- Miep Gies says, “I am not a hero.” Do you think she is a hero for helping those in hiding? Why or why not? (page 48)
- Which photograph in this book is most interesting or stirs up the most emotion in you? What do you think and feel when you look at this picture?
- Why does Otto Frank say that he cannot see the play of Anne’s diary? Do you agree with his reasoning? Why or why not? (page 84)

Suggested Activities and Projects:

- Provide students with a list of quotes from Anne’s diary (found on the page numbers listed in the guiding questions). Students should match these quotes with historical events found in the book: either by similar dates, or by a connection they individually see. This will show how Anne’s life overlapped with these events and how her day to day experiences were directly affected.
- Using this book, ask students to create a timeline, including at least 10 dates, each with a sentence describing what happened then. The timeline should be either of significant dates in Anne’s personal life or significant dates in the uprising and demise of the Nazi party (the events of the Holocaust as a whole).
- Ask each student to draw a layout of their home- including where each person in their family sleeps. Then show them a layout of the Annex (available at www.annefrank.org) and show students where each of the 8 residents slept. Now ask students to write a paragraph, describing how their life would be different if they had to live like Anne and the 7 others did for two years. What would they no longer be able to do? How would this change make them feel?

“Personally, I believe this book beautifully serves as a window into the life of Anne Frank, both visually and historically. Not only is its artful use of images able to draw in young readers, but the language implemented is successful in keeping them interested as they begin to understand the horrors of the Holocaust. The use of historical documents and personal testimonies solidifies the realities of this era and allows the reader to feel a connection to Anne. Even though Anne’s story is only one, it serves as a testament for millions who were unable to tell theirs.”

— **Natalie Vantuyn**
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For more information on education programs or to schedule a visit please email education@annefrank.com or call **212.431.7993**.

Directions: Take the A/C/E trains to Chambers Street; the 2-3 trains to Park Place; the R train to City Hall; the 4-5-6 trains to Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall.