

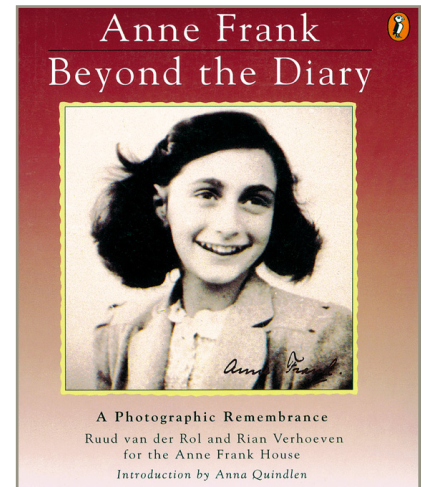
# Anne Frank: Beyond the Diary, a Photographic Remembrance

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Introduction by *Anna Quindlen*

Lexile®: 1030L

**Recommended grade levels: 7th–9th**



## Background:

This book presents Anne’s story thoroughly and concisely without appearing daunting or overreaching. It truly breaches “beyond the diary” in that its content provides the reader with a detailed background of the Frank family as well as juxtaposes the history of the Holocaust alongside that of those hidden in the secret annex. The authors include several pages throughout the book that are dedicated solely to keeping the story of the Frank family in the greater context of the war. The book also includes helpful pictures that enable the reader to have a better understanding of life in the annex, and to help paint a clearer picture of their circumstances.

The photographs are particularly gripping and are perhaps equally as helpful in honing in on the story of the Frank family as the text is. These pictures prove beneficial in allowing the reader to connect with Anne and create a deeper connection with both her story and that of many people who suffered under these horrific conditions.

As stated by the Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books, “[this book] lets us see Anne as she never could have seen herself.” It enables young people to gain a deeper understanding of Anne’s thoughts, feelings and hopes, all of which she wished to share with the world.

## Notes on the Book:

- This book is separated into nine sections including an introduction, chronology, comments on different versions of the diary, varying sources and an index.
- The photographs and layout are aesthetically pleasing and are user-friendly.
- The text uses clear and concise writing in a large font.

## Guiding Questions:

- When was *The Diary of Anne Frank* published? Who was responsible for publishing it? (page 103)
- How are the photographs of the Frank family taken before the war beneficial in our understanding of Anne’s story?
- What did Hitler hope to accomplish and what did he want for the Jews? (page 16)
- When does Anne receive her diary? What does she hope to accomplish by writing in it? (page 37)
- What was the fate of Dutch Jews who did not go into hiding? Was going into hiding a difficult decision to make? (page 44)

- How did Anne describe everyday life in the annex? What were her feelings on hiding with seven other people? (page 57)
- What does the map on pages 94 and 95 tell you about the power of the Nazi party? How were they able to kill so many Jews without being stopped?
- What does Anne’s story mean to you? How has it impacted the world?

## Suggested Activities and Projects:

- To put this time period and the struggles of Anne and her family into context, have students put together a small scrapbook or “diary” with pictures of their family alongside current events of the day. Seeing and understanding how their lives are affected by what is happening around them—city, state or country—they can better connect with Anne and understand what she was feeling during her lifetime.
- Using the chronology on page 108, select 5 dates/events that you think are most significant to the short life of Anne Frank or the Holocaust as a whole. Why do you think these are important? How do they connect to each other and to what you have read in this book?
- Using the layout of the house on page 51, ask students to describe how they would feel living in such tight quarters. What would be different about their lives now if they lived like Anne did?
- The array of photographs of documents scattered throughout the book are meant to enhance the reader’s understanding of Anne Frank and her life, as well as their overall understanding of the Holocaust. Ask students to choose the document that is most interesting to them, and further, why do they find this particular one so interesting?
- Using this book and the diary as a guide, separate the students into groups and assign each group an example of genocide or ethnic cleansing—past or current—and allow them to research the history of the situation, what is happening to those being persecuted, and what the world is doing to help. This will open up the students to a more universal concept of genocide and will enable them to understand that it still exists and has persisted throughout history.

*“This book stands out to me as a superb resource—not only does it comprehensively tell the heartbreaking story of the fate of the Frank family but also appropriately fits it into the greater account that is the history of the Holocaust. It allows one to recognize the singular story of Anne Frank and places it within the framework of six million; it forces readers to truly face the sheer horror that is the number six million. Anne’s story brings it home and allows us to put a name to a number.”*

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