

The Diary of a Young Girl: Anne Frank

Anne, a thirteen- year- old girl, was forced into hiding with seven other people during World War II. At an early age, she became aware of what was actually going on around her. Unlike other children, she learned to behave like an adult while adjusting herself to the new underground life. It was then that she started her diary.

The diary started from June 12, 1942, to August 1, 1944. Anne began with a brief description about her normal life, her friends, and her family. She was always the one drawing everyone's attention and had a number of admirers wherever she went. Everything seemed to be ordinary until they received a call-up notice for her older sister, Margot. Immediately, they decided to go into hiding in a secret place above her father's office. At first it was just like an adventure to Anne, but as time passed, quarrels over trivial matters really annoyed her. She felt depressed and unsure of herself when the others kept scolding at anything she did. At the same time, there was a gap forming between her and her family. She wrote, "I didn't want to be treated the same as all-the-other-girls, but as Anne-in-her-own-right, and Father didn't understand that." Failing to satisfy the whole party, she longed for a companion to whom she could confide her inner thoughts. One time when talking to Peter, an elder boy hiding with them, she found that they shared a lot in common. From then on, they became almost intimate, pouring their hearts to each other every evening. The eight of them lived through food shortages, numerous air raids, and other countless hard times, but were caught unprepared on August 4, 1944. In the end, only Anne's father survived.

Imagine being forbidden to even look outside from a window for two years! How could they put up with this, isolated from the outside world? It's heartbreaking to know that after suffering for so long, just one member survived from the concentrating camps. By reading Anne's diary, I felt myself inside the "Secret Annex", the place where they hid. I could also feel the tense atmosphere and the panic in their minds whenever someone broke into the office. Anne was almost vivid in front of my eyes, writing with trembling hands or full of happiness. Sometimes I thought of myself as Anne, and I knew definitely that I wouldn't have the courage and hope to live on. Though she might appear young on the outside, she surely had a mature heart inside.

It is generally known that Hitler massacred tens of thousands of Jews in World War II. Living now in such peace, I found it quite difficult to picture the battle scenes described in the book. Anne and the rest of the family were just a fraction of the victims under Nazi's

policy. All of these extreme measures were simply due to Hitler's racial prejudice! As Anne wrote in her diary, "One day this terrible war will be over. The time will come when we'll be people again and not just Jews." It was a ridiculous move trying to wipe out all Jews. They had their own rights and didn't do anything wrong to deserve such cruelty.

From Anne's diary, I saw how an innocent girl struggled with inconvenience and her scattered thoughts about war, hiding, love, work, and peace. Those years in hiding had taught her more than she knew. She was frightened and wished desperately for a normal life. After all, she was just a teenager. I'm really impressed by these people's bravery and the desire of being able to run freely and inhale fresh air again. Fortunately, their spirit will continue to live on in all people's heart.