

Name: _____ Class: _____

Seven Decades On, Anne Frank's Words Still Comfort

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Anne Frank was a German-born Jewish girl who hid with her family in an attic in Amsterdam during the Holocaust. She is one of the most famous victims of the Holocaust thanks to the discovery of her diary which her father and Holocaust survivor, Otto Frank, published after the end of World War II. Today Anne's diary is one of the most well-read works of literature around the world. As you read, take notes on Anne Frank's experience and legacy.

- [1] A 15-year-old girl named Anne Frank died 70 years ago this week; the exact day is unknown. She died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp,¹ not long after her sister Margot, who was 19.

Anne Frank's Wikipedia entry refers to her as a "diarist and a writer"; she sure was. The entries she wrote in the red plaid diary she got from her father on her 13th birthday were published as Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl* in 1947. It has become one of the most famous books in history, translated into more than 60 languages.

But let us remember this week that Anne Frank was a 15-year-old girl who was among the millions who died in the Holocaust.

Anne's diary tells the story of her family and family friends who hide for two years in an attic above her father's old shop in Amsterdam because they were Jews in a time when Nazism rolled over Europe.

- [5] They had to live in darkness and quiet, so they wouldn't give their hiding place away. They got by, often barely, on smuggled² cans of food. And each day, Anne lay below the attic skylight to stare up at the bare limbs of a chestnut tree.



"Anne Frank graffiti, Berlin" by duncan c is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0.

1. Concentration camp: a place where large numbers of people, especially political prisoners or members of persecuted minorities, are deliberately imprisoned in a relatively small area with inadequate facilities, sometimes to provide forced labor or to await mass execution. The term is most strongly associated with the several hundred camps established by the Nazis in Germany and occupied Europe in 1933–45, among the most infamous being Dachau, Belsen, and Auschwitz.

2. **Smuggle (verb):** to move (someone or something) secretly or illegally

"...On whose branches little raindrops shine," she wrote," appearing like silver, and at the seagulls as they glide on the wind. While this lasts I cannot be unhappy."

It is a true story, both unbearably sad and inspiring. Over the decades, Anne Frank's words have offered comfort and bravery wherever children have to grow up amid violence, war, bigotry and fear.

Just a few weeks before Anne Frank and much of her family were dragged off to the camps and died, she wrote, of all things, about her faith in people.

Her words are read by Asiieh Panahi, a 17-year-old Hazara Afghan refugee now living with her family in an immigrant camp in Austria; and Sydney Falls, a 15-year-old girl on the south side of Chicago.

[10] "It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd³ and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery, and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness, and I hear every approaching thunder, which will destroy us too, I can feel the suffering of millions and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think it will all come right, and that this cruelty too will end, and that peace and tranquility⁴ will return again.

In the meantime, I must uphold⁵ my ideals, for perhaps the time will come when I shall be able to carry them out.

Yours, Anne."

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3. **Absurd** (*adjective*): foolish or ridiculous
4. **Tranquility** (*noun*): calm or peace
5. **Uphold** (*verb*): to maintain or support

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: How does the excerpt from Anne Frank’s diary entry in paragraph 6 contribute to the ideas in the text?
 - A. It emphasizes the positivity that Frank maintained despite her family’s desperate circumstances.
 - B. It informs readers of the limited views of the outside world that the Frank family had during their hiding.
 - C. It describes the conditions in Amsterdam during the time that the Frank family was in hiding.
 - D. It provides readers with an example of the advanced vocabulary Frank was able to use during her hiding.

2. PART B: Which quote from the article best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. “Anne Frank’s Wikipedia entry refers to her as a ‘diarist and a writer’; she sure was.” (Paragraph 2)
 - B. “They had to live in darkness and quiet, so they wouldn’t give their hiding place away.” (Paragraph 5)
 - C. “And each day, Anne lay below the attic skylight to stare up at the bare limbs of a chestnut tree.” (Paragraph 5)
 - D. “and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think it will all come right, and that this cruelty too will end” (Paragraph 10)

3. Part A: What does the word “ideals” most likely mean as it is used in paragraph 10?
 - A. dreams
 - B. plans
 - C. difficulties
 - D. desires

4. Part B: Which of the following phrases from paragraph 10 best support your answer to Part A?
 - A. “because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out”
 - B. “I simply can’t build up my hopes on a foundation”
 - C. “I hear every approaching thunder, which will destroy us too”
 - D. “if I look up into the heavens, I think it will all come right”

5. What is the connection between Anne Frank and Asiieh and Sydney in paragraph 9? Cite evidence from the text in your answer.
