

Third reading - question the author

LO: To check my understanding as I read the text

What have you remembered about the text?

You could:

- Write your own short diary entry imagining that you are Anne.
- Write a short paragraph about how these diary extract make you feel and give reasons why.



<http://edu.annefrank.org/annefrankintroductorylesson/filmclip2.html>



<https://www.annefrank.org/en/about-us/what-we-do/publications/anne-frank-house-virtual-reality/>



	Glossary
fate	the development of events outside a person's control.
carpentry	the activity or occupation of making or repairing things in wood.
dismal	gloomy.
shorn heads	shaved or cut closely.
uncivilized	not socially, culturally, or morally advanced
nationality	the status of belonging to a particular nation
windowless	having no windows
taken away in droves	like a herd or flock being driven away

SS
Schutzstaffel



The Schutzstaffel was a major paramilitary organization under Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party in Nazi Germany, and later throughout German-occupied Europe during World War II. It began with a small guard unit known as the Saal-Schutz made up of party volunteers to provide security for party meetings in Munich.

Read the text out loud with your partner.

Remember:

Use your reading ruler

Look at your partner when they are reading

Sit still

Help your partner if they are stuck on a word

Read to your partner in a voice that only they can hear

Write down any words you don't know the meaning of onto your whiteboard

Once you have finished reading aloud, read silently.



[The following extracts are taken from the diary of Anne Frank between 1942 and 1944, when she lived in hiding in Amsterdam with her family. The Franks were discovered, arrested and transported to Auschwitz on August 4th 1944.]

July 8th 1942: "At three o'clock (Hello had left but was supposed to come back later), the doorbell rang. I didn't hear it, since I was out on the balcony, lazily reading in the sun. A little while later Margot appeared in the kitchen doorway looking very agitated. "Father has received a call-up notice from the SS," she whispered. "Mother has gone to see Mr. van Daan" (Mr. van Daan is Father's business partner and a good friend.) I was stunned. A call-up: everyone knows what that means. Visions of concentration camps and lonely cells raced through my head. How could we let Father go to such a fate? "Of course he's not going," declared Margot as we waited for Mother in the living room. "Mother's gone to Mr. van Daan to ask whether we can move to our hiding place tomorrow. The van Daans are going with us. There will be seven of us altogether." Silence. We couldn't speak. The thought of Father off visiting someone in the Jewish Hospital and completely unaware of what was happening, the long wait for Mother, the heat, the suspense – all this reduced us to silence.

July 9th 1942: "Here's a description of the building... A wooden staircase leads from the downstairs hallway to the third floor. At the top of the stairs is a landing, with doors on either side. The door on the left takes you up to the spice storage area, attic and loft in the front part of the house. A typically Dutch, very steep, ankle-twisting flight of stairs also runs from the front part of the house to another door opening onto the street. The door to the right of the landing leads to the Secret Annex at the back of the house. No one would ever suspect there were so many rooms behind that plain grey door. There's just one small step in front of the door, and then you're inside. Straight ahead of you is a steep flight of stairs. To the left is a narrow hallway opening onto a room that serves as the Frank family's living room and bedroom. Next door is a smaller room, the bedroom and study of the two young ladies of the family. To the right of the stairs is a windowless washroom with a sink. The door in the corner leads to the toilet and another one to Margot's and my room... Now I've introduced you to the whole of our lovely Annex!"

These extracts from the diary of Anne Frank are a superb way of finding out about what life was like for Jewish people during WW2.

The events of Anne's life are recorded in chronological order as her diary entries are all dated. Another famous diary I can recall is Samuel Pepy's diary when he wrote about the Great Fire of London.

This poor little girl knew from a young age what concentration camps were like and the family were stunned into silence as they contemplated having to go into hiding.

It's useful to have a short description of where the family were living and to visualize this annex where the family were to hide away.

August 21st 1942: "Now our Secret Annex has truly become secret. Because so many houses are being searched for hidden bicycles, Mr. Kugler thought it would be better to have a bookcase built in front of the entrance to our hiding place. It swings out on its hinges and opens like a door. Mr. Voskuijl did the carpentry work. (Mr. Voskuijl has been told that the seven of us are in hiding, and he's been most helpful.) Now whenever we want to go downstairs we have to duck and then jump. After the first three days we were all walking around with bumps on our foreheads from banging our heads against the low doorway. Then Peter cushioned it by nailing a towel stuffed with wood shavings to the doorframe. Let's see if it helps!"

October 9th 1942: "Today I have nothing but dismal and depressing news to report. Our many Jewish friends and acquaintances are being taken away in droves. The Gestapo is treating them very roughly and transporting them in cattle cars to Westerbork, the big camp in Drenthe to which they're sending all the Jews. Miep told us about someone who'd managed to escape from there. It must be terrible in Westerbork. The people get almost nothing to eat, much less to drink, as water is available only one hour a day, and there's only one toilet and sink for several thousand people. Men and women sleep in the same room, and women and children often have their heads shaved. Escape is almost impossible; many people look Jewish, and they're branded by their shorn heads. If it's that bad in Holland, what must it be like in those faraway and uncivilized places where the Germans are sending them? We assume that most of them are being murdered. The English radio says they're being gassed. Perhaps that's the quickest way to die. I feel terrible. Miep's accounts of these horrors are so heartrending... Fine specimens of humanity, those Germans, and to think I'm actually one of them! No, that's not true, Hitler took away our nationality long ago. And besides, there are no greater enemies on earth than the Germans and Jews."

The Secret Annex was adapted as needed to make it as safe as possible to live in.

The beginning of this extract has an example of an alliteration - can you spot it?

Anne knows a lot about the appalling conditions experienced by the Jews inside the concentration camps. She mentions the Gestapo - Secret State Police who were the official secret police of Nazi Germany and in German-occupied Europe.

October 20th 1942: "My hands still shaking, though it's been two hours since we had the scare... The office staff stupidly forgot to warn us that the carpenter, or whatever he's called, was coming to fill the extinguishers... After working for about fifteen minutes, he laid his hammer and some other tools on our bookcase (or so we thought!) and banged on our door. We turned white with fear. Had he heard something after all and did he now want to check out this mysterious looking bookcase? It seemed so, since he kept knocking, pulling, pushing and jerking on it. I was so scared I nearly fainted at the thought of this total stranger managing to discover our wonderful hiding place..."
<https://alphahistory.com/holocaust/anne-frank-diary-1942-44/>

Poor Anne is really shaken up by the unexpected visit by the carpenter. Just imagine living in fear of being found! I am going to magpie the phrases 'white with fear' and 'nearly fainted at the thought...'

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