

UNIT 4:

FROM THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

GIST:

This lesson is an excerpt from “Diary of a Young Girl” or “The Diary of Anne Frank”. It is an autobiography that was first published in 1947. In this, Anne expresses her thoughts in a diary which was gifted to her on her thirteenth birthday. She names the diary “kitty” which she considers as her only true friend. She mentions about her childhood, her family and a lot other things that she told no one else.

CHARACTER SKETCH OF ANNE FRANK

Anne Frank was born on 12th June 1929 in Frankfurt Germany. She was four years old when her father went to Holland to find a better place for them to live. She was very intelligent and always wanted to become a writer.

She was a very good reader as well; she continued reading books, translated chapters, wrote down the vocabulary and worked hard on her skills. Like any child, she loved her parents but later grew a dislike towards her mother as she compared her to Margot. She was always jealous of her. She believed that time would come when the problems would be over. She felt lonely. Though she was amidst thirty people, she could hardly call anyone as her true friend. Anne died of typhus in the concentration camp at Berger-Belsen in late February or early March of 1945.

EXTRACT BASED COMPREHENSION QUESTION EXERCISES

1. Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I have never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musing of a thirteen year old school girl. Oh well, it doesn't matter. I feel like writing and I have an even greater need to get all kind of things off my chest. Paper has more patience than people.' I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out.

- (a) Whom does 'I' refer to in the given passage?
- (b) 'Paper has more patience than people' – Why did Anne Frank say that?
- (c) Find a word in the passage that means 'deep thought'.
- (d) Which word in the passage is a synonym of lethargic?

Answers:

- (a) 'I' refers to Anne Frank in the given passage.
- (b) Anne Frank said that 'Paper has more patience than people' because one can rely on the paper to confide his/her secrets and it listens carefully and silently.
- (c) The word is 'musing'.
- (d) The word is 'listless'.

2) Let me put it more clearly, since no one will believe that a thirteen-year-old girl is completely alone in the world. And I'm not. I have loving parents and a sixteen-year-old sister, and there are about thirty people I can call friends. I have a family, loving aunts and a good home. No, on the surface I seem to have everything, except my one true friend. All I think about when I'm with friends is having a good time. I can't bring myself to talk about anything but ordinary everyday things. We don't seem to be able to get any closer, and that's the problem. Maybe it's my fault that we don't confide in each other. In any case, that's just how things are, and unfortunately they're not liable to change. This is why I've started the diary.

- (a) Why was Anne Frank disturbed even when she had loving parents, relatives and friends?
- (b) Why did Anne decide to write a diary?
- (c) Find the word that means the same as 'unluckily'.
- (d) To confide in somebody is to

Answers:

- (a) Anne Frank was disturbed even after being surrounded by so many people because she didn't have any true friend.
- (b) Anne decided to write a diary because she could not confide in anyone and felt lonely.
- (c) The word is unfortunately.
- (d) It means to tell somebody your secrets or personal information.

3) To enhance the image of this long awaited friend in my imagination, I don't want to jot down the facts in this diary the way most people would do, but I want the diary to be my friend, and I'm going to call this friend 'Kitty'.

Since no one would understand a word of my stories to Kitty if I were to plunge right in, I'd better provide a brief sketch of my life, much as I dislike doing so.

- (a) Who was the long awaited friend of Anne? Why?
- (b) What did she provide in her diary?
- (c) Find a word from the extract which means the same as 'submerge'.

Answers:

- (a) The diary named 'Kitty' was the long awaited friend of Anne, because she had no true friend in her life with whom she could share her feelings and thoughts.
- (b) She provided a brief-sketch of her life and her family in her diary
- (c) Plunge.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (30 - 40 words)

1. Why does Anne Frank think that 'paper' has more patience than 'people'?

Ans .Anne believes that paper has more patience than people because it listens to her more patiently and silently it does not react like other people and also because she can confide in her diary all her secrets..

2. What does Anne Frank tell about her family in her diary?

Ans. Anne Frank tells that she has very lovely and caring family. Her parents and her elder sister love her a lot. There are about thirty people nearby her whom she can call friends. She has loving aunts and a good home but she wants to have a true friend with whom she can share her feelings and thoughts.

1. Describe your views about Mr Keesing as a teacher.

Ans. Mr Keesing seems to be a strict teacher. He actually believes taking action with good intention and prefers development in children. He tries to control Anne's talkative habit, but as soon as he is convinced that it does not affect her studies, he overlooks her shortcoming.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (100-150 Words)

1. Anne called 26th July a 'tumultuous' day. Explain the reasons behind it.

Ans. Anne called 26th July a tumultuous day as it was full of tension and fright. The first warning siren was sent off in the morning but nobody paid any attention to it because it only meant that the planes were crossing the coast. The siren alarmed again around 2 O'clock in the afternoon. Anne and her sister went upstairs but after five minutes they heard loud gunshots. After half an hour, drone of engines faded and life became normal. The city was enveloped in thick fog. But after dinner time, there was another gun-fire round and swarms of planes. The air was buzzing with the drone of engines. Nobody was able to sleep that night because it repeated again at midnight.

2. Why did Anne think that she could confide more in her diary than in the people?

Ans. Anne Frank did not have a friend with whom she could share her feelings. Though she had spent a good time with her friends but she was unable to share her views and thoughts with them. When she got her diary, she decided to share everything with it because she believed that nobody would be interested in her musings. So, she treated her diary as her best friend. She felt that it would keep her life a secret and would not react like people. She confided everything in the diary; her family, her fear, her loneliness, her life and considered it her best friend and named it 'Kitty'.

UNSOLVED QUESTIONS:

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (30 - 40 words)

- 1) What does Anne write in her first essay to support her habit of talking so much?
- 2) Why was Anne's entire class anxious and nervous?

- 3) Describe Anne's love for her grandmother.
- 4) Write in brief about Anne Frank's early education.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (100-150 Words)

- 1) Who helped Anne in writing the essay and how?
- 2) Give a brief description about Anne's life.
- 3) 'Paper has more patience than people'. Justify.

(Or)

'Paper has more patience than people'. Do you agree with the statement?

- 4) 'From the diary of Anne Frank' throws light on teacher-student relationship, class atmosphere and discipline. Write a paragraph on the values of these aspects of school and how far these values are necessary for learning and life.