

Stanford House Classics - Elementary

THE STORY OF ANNE FRANK

Jane Dolman

literature analysis and response



Stanford House Classics - Elementary
(Introduction)

This series of simplified Stanford House Classics readers has a vocabulary of approximately 600 head words.

They are suitable for students aged between 12 and 15. These books are particularly useful as support material for teachers of English as a second language, since they have been structured to encourage active reading: on the left-hand page there is the story, complete with explanatory notes in English, and on the right-hand page there are exercises which refer exclusively to the text opposite.

Some exercises review his grammatical knowledge of the English language, others are just good fun. By the end of the book the student will know the story and should be able to recount it, too!

THE STORY OF ANNE FRANK

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When *The Diary of Anne Frank* was first published in 1947, it was entitled *Het Achterhuis* which in Dutch means "The House Behind". Many people claimed that the diary was not authentic, saying that a 15-year-old girl could never have written so well. To prove that **Anne Frank** had really existed, all her photos, manuscripts and other materials included in the book were scientifically examined and the results made public - there is absolutely no doubt about its authenticity. In 1986 a second version was published which included almost all Anne's manuscripts plus an account of her arrest and deportation.

Her tragic personal account of those years forms an essential part of the literature - fact and fiction - which chronicles the atrocities, the pain and suffering endured, that should never be forgotten by the generations of the future.



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The Diary

“Happy birthday to you / happy birthday to you / happy birthday dear Anne / happy birthday to you.”

“Hooray,” they all shouted as Anne blew out all thirteen candles in one go.

“Cut the cake now! And make a wish!”

“I wish that we weren’t Jewish,” thought Anne, but she didn’t tell anybody of course. She felt ashamed¹ even of thinking it.

“What did you wish?” asked Barbara.

“She can’t tell you, silly,” said Mary, “or else it won’t come true.”

Her friends and family were all sitting round the table waiting for a slice of cake. It was a real treat². Chocolate, too! They didn’t often get chocolate these days. Anne’s mother had saved up to buy the ingredients and she had made the cake the day before - 11th June 1942.

“Now it’s time to open the presents,” said Margot. Margot was Anne’s sister. She was sixteen.

Anne began unwrapping³ her presents. There was a pen, a ribbon⁴ for her hair, a new pair of stockings, some sweets and then...

“Here you are, darling,” said her mother.

Anne unwrapped the gift carefully. She wanted to keep the nice coloured wrapping paper and the red bow.

“It’s a book I think,” she said, laughing. Everyone knew how much Anne enjoyed reading.

But she was wrong. It wasn’t a book but a diary.

“OOH!,” cried Anne. “How lovely! Now I can write down all my thoughts.” It was true that Anne loved reading but she also loved writing, too.

Yet she never imagined that one day the whole world would read that diary and the tragic story it told.

The Frank Family

Anne Frank was born in Frankfurt, Germany, in

1. List the names of the different people in chapter 1 and decide who they are.

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2. Write down all you know about Anne from the first chapter. Write short, complete sentences.

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1. **ashamed:** embarrassed, mortified.
 2. **treat:** something very special (to eat or to do).
 3. **unwrapping:** removing the paper.
 4. **ribbon:** short, narrow length of material (often in satin or velvet).

1929. Her father's family came from Frankfurt but her mother came from a small town near the border with Holland. They were Jewish Liberals, which means that they followed their religion, the festivities and so on, but were not strict¹ practicing Jews. They had many friends who were not Jewish - some of them were Catholic and others were Protestant.

Otto Frank, Anne's father, came from a middle class family and was an industrialist. They lived in a semi-detached² house with a garden in a nice, green district of the city. Anne and Margot spent a lot of time outside in the fresh air, playing with their friends. It was a happy family.

But 1929 was not a happy period for anyone in Europe. There was a very bad economic crisis in all the European countries and poverty and unemployment were increasing. Otto Frank and his wife, Edith, were extremely worried.

"Otto, I heard that terrible man, Hitler, speaking in the square, today," Edith said to her husband one evening. "He really frightens me. He says such horrid things about the Jews. I'm afraid."

"Don't worry, darling," her husband tried to reassure her. But, deep in his heart, he was afraid too. The man seemed so powerful and the people listened to him. "I'm sure he won't get elected," he added, unconvincingly³.

Hitler comes to Power

Adolf Hitler was leader of the National Socialist Workers Party (NSDAP) which was founded in 1920. Hitler claimed that the Germans were a superior race - the best and the most powerful. He said that it was right that other peoples and races should be their slaves⁴. He promised the German population a magnificent future. He said that it was the fault of the Jews if there was so much poverty and unemployment. He said they were dangerous, evil, infamous traitors⁵. Many people were willing to believe him. They liked the idea of being a superior race,

3. Answer the questions.

- 1. Where was Anne born?
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- 2. When was she born?
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- 3. How old is she when the story begins? (see chap. 1)
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- 4. Which religious movement did her family belong to?
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- 5. What was the general situation in Europe in 1929?
.....
- 6. Why was Anne's mother afraid?
.....
- 7. Was her father afraid too?
.....
- 8. Why didn't he show it?
.....

4. Find the following words in the text and explain what they mean (in English of course!).

- Jewish Liberals:
- unemployment:
- powerful:
- peoples:
- evil:
- superior:

- 1. **strict:** rigid.
- 2. **semi-detached:** a house attached to another on one side only.
- 3. **unconvincingly:** without being very sure.
- 4. **slaves:** people who work for others without receiving any kind of payment.
- 5. **infamous traitors:** notorious people who were not loyal to their country.

too. Others did not take his words very seriously but the party's manifesto¹ appealed to the masses² because it promised jobs for everyone and, therefore, money.

In fact, in January 1933 the NSDAP won the elections and Adolf Hitler took over the Government. It was then that the true aim of the party was revealed: they wanted to destroy democracy. The first thing Hitler did was to ban³ all the other political parties. His followers - the Nazis, an abbreviation of the German word for National-Socialists - massacred the members of the opposing parties or threw them into jail⁴. But soon the prisons were full and so concentration camps were established.

Meanwhile, Hitler continued his campaign against the Jews; using the mass media, he convinced more and more people that the Jewish people were to blame for all their hardship⁵. The result was that many Jewish men and women began losing their jobs and their children had to sit at separate desks in school. And this was just the beginning!

Kitty

I hope I'll be able to confide in you, writing all my secrets, like I've never been able to do with anyone till now. And I hope you'll be a great comfort to me.

These were the first words that Anne wrote in her diary. "I'm going to call you Kitty," she said to herself, but really she was talking to that lovely diary with its red and white checked cover and tiny padlock⁶. "And you're going to be my best friend, aren't you?"

"Who's that you're talking to?" said her father, coming into the room.

"Oh, no-one, Pim," replied Anne. "Look, do you like this photo of me? Shall I stick it here on the first page of my diary?"

"Good idea, darling. Then everyone will know who it belongs to."

5. Complete the following.

1. Hitler was popular because he
2. The German people realized Hitler's true aim when he
.....
3. Nazi means
4. The first bad thing that happened to the Jews was that lots of them
5. In school Jewish children could not
6. Many people believed Hitler when he said that the Jewish people
6. The chapter called "Kitty" takes place in 1942 (like chap. 1). Make questions for the following answers.
 1. ?
Kitty.
 2. ?
Red and White.
 3. ?
A key.
 4. ?
Pim.
 5. ?
A photo of herself.
 6. ?
This diary belongs to Anne Frank.

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1. **manifesto:** official programme.
 2. **masses:** public.
 3. **ban:** prohibit, forbid.
 4. **jail:** prison.
 5. **hardship:** difficult (economic) times.
 6. **padlock:** removable lock opened with a key.