

A PAGE FROM THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL- Questions and Answers

1. Why is Ms. Anne Frank writing a diary? Explain.

Ans: Anne Frank began writing her diary because she felt an intense need for a true friend with whom she could share her innermost thoughts and emotions. Although she had a loving family, many acquaintances, and even admirers, Anne felt lonely and isolated since she could not confide in anyone about her deeper feelings. With her friends, conversations always revolved around everyday matters, and she longed for a more meaningful connection. This lack of intimacy pushed her to turn to writing. She believed that “paper has more patience than people,” meaning that her diary would listen silently, without judgment or interruption. For Anne, the diary became more than a notebook—it was her trusted companion, which she affectionately named “Kitty.”

Additionally, her decision to write was influenced by the turbulent times she lived in. As a Jewish girl facing discrimination under Nazi occupation, she experienced restrictions, fear, and constant uncertainty. Writing offered her a sense of relief and an outlet to express feelings she could not share openly. Thus, her diary became both a confidante and a form of resistance, preserving her voice in a world that sought to silence her. Ultimately, Anne wrote to feel less alone and to give meaning to her experiences.

2. What details of Ms. Anne Frank’s family can be discerned from the text?

Ans: From the text, several details about Anne Frank’s family can be discerned. Anne’s father, Otto Frank, whom she lovingly calls “the most adorable father,” married her mother, Edith Hollander, when he was thirty-six and she was twenty-five. Anne also had an elder sister, Margot, born in Frankfurt in 1926. Anne herself was born in Frankfurt on June 12, 1929.

The family’s life changed drastically because they were Jewish. In 1933, Otto Frank immigrated to Holland, where he became the Managing Director of the Dutch Opekta Company, a firm that manufactured products used in making jam. Edith joined him later, while Anne and Margot initially stayed with their grandmother in Aachen. Eventually, Margot and Anne were reunited with their parents in Holland.

Anne recounts her school years, beginning with Montessori nursery school and later attending the Jewish Lyceum, where Margot also studied. The family was closely knit, with Anne mentioning her affectionate relationship with her grandmother, who came to live with them after fleeing Germany. However, their lives were overshadowed by the growing persecution of Jews. Many of their relatives suffered under Nazi laws, and Anne’s two maternal uncles fled to North America. Despite these hardships, Anne highlights the warmth and love in her family, which remained her greatest support during troubled times.

3. Ms. Anne Frank lists a series of ‘anti-Jewish decrees’ that restricted their freedom. What are they?

Ans: In her diary entry dated June 20, 1942, Anne Frank describes the severe restrictions placed on Jews under Nazi rule, which deeply affected her family’s daily life. These were a series of anti-Jewish decrees that stripped Jews of their freedom and dignity step by step.

She notes that Jews were forced to wear a yellow star, which singled them out in society. They had to surrender their bicycles and were forbidden from using streetcars or riding in cars, even their own. Their shopping hours were restricted to between 3 and 5 P.M., making daily life inconvenient and isolating. They could only go to Jewish-owned barbershops and beauty parlours.

Social life was also restricted. Jews were not allowed to be outdoors between 8 P.M. and 6 A.M. They were banned from theatres, cinemas, and all forms of public entertainment. They could not use swimming pools, tennis courts, hockey fields, or any other sports facilities, nor could they participate in public athletic activities like rowing. Even simple pleasures, such as sitting in gardens after 8 P.M. or visiting Christian friends, were forbidden.

Finally, Jewish children were forced to attend only Jewish schools. These decrees created a life of isolation, fear, and constant limitations, showing how oppression pervaded even the smallest aspects of their existence.

4. Jacques' matter of fact statement "I don't dare do anything anymore, 'cause I'm afraid it's not allowed" is a testament to the life of Jews during the II World war. Justify.

Ans: Jacques' statement, "I don't dare do anything anymore, 'cause I'm afraid it's not allowed," reflects the extreme fear, uncertainty, and helplessness that defined the lives of Jews during the Second World War. As Anne Frank explains in her diary, Jews were subjected to a series of strict anti-Jewish decrees that restricted their everyday freedom. They were forced to wear the yellow Star of David, could not own bicycles or ride in cars, and were banned from using public transport. Their shopping hours were limited, and they were allowed to visit only Jewish-owned establishments. Leisure activities such as attending theatres, movies, sports, or even sitting in gardens after 8 P.M. were forbidden. Children like Anne and her sister Margot were sent only to Jewish schools, further isolating them from the rest of society.

This constant web of prohibitions created a climate where Jews feared breaking rules even unintentionally. Normal activities such as meeting friends, playing sports, or enjoying entertainment became impossible. Jacques' remark sums up this suffocating environment—where every action was shadowed by the thought, "Is it allowed?" It reveals how Nazi oppression stripped Jews not just of rights but also of their sense of normalcy, reducing life to one of fear, restrictions, and silent endurance.