

THE STORY OF ANNE FRANK

Study Guide

Always Free

Bright Star Touring Theatre

This 45-minute production honors the life of Anne Frank and the famous diary she kept while in hiding in Amsterdam.

Anne Frank's Diary has been translated into sixty-seven languages and has sold thirty million copies around the world. It's full of wonderful quotes like this....

In spite of everything, I still believe people are good at heart.
-Anne Frank, July 15th 1944

About the Play

We traveled all the way to the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam to research and create this engaging production about the life of Anne Frank and the diary she kept during the height of the Nazi invasion of Europe.

With this play, young audiences will gain an understanding of this difficult time in history through the perspective of one inspiring young woman who recorded her experience. Audiences will learn about pivotal moments which lead to the Frank's decision to go into hiding and what life was like for them in their secret home. They will also be introduced to important people in Anne's life; her family, friends and the people who helped her family hide for about two years. Through this play, we hope audiences will understand the climate of the world during Anne's life and feel empowered to learn from history and make their world a safe and accepting place.



Anne Frank received a diary for her 13th birthday on June 12th, 1942. She started writing in the diary right away and went into hiding less than one month later.





THE SECRET ANNEX

The Secret Annex is the name given to the home Anne's family created in order to hide from Nazi forces when they invaded The Netherlands along with much of Europe.

Why did the Frank family have to hide?

Anne and her family were originally from Germany, but when the Nazis came to power life became very difficult for Jewish people like the Franks. They moved to Amsterdam in the Netherlands in 1934 and were happy there for several years. Eventually the Nazis took over more of Europe; they began occupying the Netherlands in 1940. Anne and other Jewish people had to go to different schools, swimming pools and even movies. In addition, more and more Jewish people were being forced by the Nazis to report to work camps and concentration camps. On July 5th, 1942, Anne's sister Margot got a letter saying she had to report to a German work camp. This was very dangerous for Jews; Anne's father knew that they may never see Margot again if she obeyed the order. They decided to go into hiding; World War II had begun and they hoped to hide until the Nazis were defeated so they could return to life as normal.

Where was The Secret Annex?

Anne's father, Otto Frank, had planned the Secret Annex for a long time. It was hidden in the back of the building where Otto owned a business; a company that made pectin (which was used to make jelly and other things). The entrance to the secret house was behind a bookcase that could be opened.

What happened to the Secret Annex?

The Franks, the van Pels and one man named Fritz Pfeffer (eight people total) lived there for over two years, safe from the harsh environment just outside their windows. On August 4th, 1944 the Frank family was discovered. Someone called the Nazi authorities and told them there were Jews living behind Otto Frank's business. They were taken to Concentration Camps and the authorities ransacked the Secret Annex but did not discover Anne's diary. The only survivor from the Secret Annex was Otto Frank.

The Secret Annex Today

Today, you can visit The Anne Frank House Museum in Amsterdam. Here you can take tour of the house and see the room where Anne stayed. Some of her favorite photos and ads remain on the wall.

A Great Resource for learning more about Anne Frank:
annefrank.org

Here, you can take a virtual tour of the Anne Frank House, learn about everyone who lived in The Secret Annex, read pieces from Anne's diary and more!

Activity Idea:

Take a virtual tour of the museum as a class and have students write their own diary entry describing their thoughts. What would it be like to live there with eight people? What would it be like to never go outside?

Classroom Activity: Who was involved?

Find someone in your community who was involved in this pivotal time. This could be a survivor of the Holocaust, a World War II Veteran, someone who helped take care of soldiers someone who helped with the war effort. Try contacting Jewish Community Centers, or centers who work with Veterans. Can you find someone who will speak to the class? You can also write letters to Veterans thanking them for their service.

Classroom Activity: Living in Silence

Anne and her family had to live in silence with the curtains drawn for months at a time. Try living in silence as a class for 5-10 minutes-maybe more! What is it like to communicate and function without being able to make a sound?

Classroom Activity: The Secret Annex

Create a map of the Secret Annex. Who lived in what rooms? What are the most important locations in the space?

Classroom Activity: Timeline of Anne's Life

Create a timeline of the major events in Anne Frank's life.

Classroom Activity: Radio and Media

The main way Anne and her family knew what was going on in the world was by listening to the radio. Listen to radio broadcasts from the time by googling WWII radio broadcasts-it may help to include specific years in your google search.

Try watching one of the great clips, interviews or documentaries about Anne's life. Here are some great ideas to research online or at the library:

Interviews with her father, Otto Frank

Interviews with Meip Geis

Interviews with Ed Silverberg or Eva Schloss, survivors of the holocaust who knew Anne.

THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage. It's called a ghost light!

When plays ended in Ancient Greece, audiences used to stomp their feet instead of clapping.

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

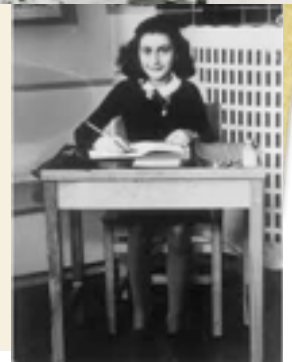
William Shakespeare is a famous play writer. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by many people. There are 157 million google pages that mention him-- the most of any famous person ever!

In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a Leg!"

Activity: The World of Anne Frank

Break students into groups and have each of them do a short research activity on one of the following people or terms. Have each group present their findings. To extend this activity, consider having students make posters or Power Point presentations.

- Kitty
- Antisemitism
- Miep Gies
- Edith Frank
- German Work Camps/ Concentration Camps
- World War II
- The van Pels family
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Otto Frank
- Kristallnacht
- German Occupation
- Star of David
- Margot Frank
- Allied Forces
- Victor Kugler & Jo Kleiman
- Liberation
- Other groups that experienced the holocaust such as Gypsies, Polish people and others.



BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, you are an important part of the play and it's important to do your job as an audience member well.

Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
2. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
3. Please keep your hands to yourself and your

eyes up front.

4. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
5. Notice how the story is being conveyed by the actors. How do they use their body and voice to be different characters?
6. Listen to the facts that are in the play to understand the what the world was like at the time.

After seeing the Play...

Write your own review of the play! A review is a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review.

Who was your favorite character? What was the setting or location of the story? Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend? Name one new thing you learned from watching this play!

FIRST THEY CAME FOR...

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a Socialist

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew

Then they came for me-and there was no one left to speak out for me.

This was a poem written by a Pastor named Martin Niemöller. It is about all of the different groups of people who were targeted by the Nazis: Jews, Gypsies, people with disabilities and many other groups were persecuted by the Nazis and many people lost their lives because of it. Read and discuss this poem. What point do you think the author was trying to make? What feeling do you get from reading or hearing the poem? How can we make sure nothing like the Holocaust happens again? It was dangerous to help people like the Frank's hide, but many people did help others at this time. Why do you think they chose to do this?



The Frank family shared their Secret Annex with another family named the van Pels and one man named Fritz Pfeffer. There were eight people total living in a very small space and Anne wrote about the challenges of this in her diary. They had to be very quiet and avoid looking out of the windows to avoid being discovered.



Statue of Anne Frank in Westerkerk Plaza near the Anne Frank House.



A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!

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THEATRE VOCABULARY!

Actor: The people on-stage performing the play.

Backdrop: The background for the play.

Props: Anything that an actor holds while on-stage--a cane, book, a pen, etc.

Downstage: the area closest to the audience a long time ago stages were built at angles.

Upstage: The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the stage.

Director: The person who told the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they played.

Costumes: The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters .

Cheating Out: When actors turn their faces toward the audience.

Facts about us!

1. Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?
2. Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.
3. Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and even around the world.
4. We watch over 1200 actors audition before we cast our season.
5. We offer dozens of different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.
6. We toured Moscow with performances of our Aesop's Fables.
7. We're based in Asheville, NC.

ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, toured to Moscow and are so grateful to be in your very school today!



Auditions: How an actor gets a role is by auditioning. They may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play or read something from it.

Set Designer: The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.

The Process of a Play:

1. Actors audition
2. Directors cast the show (that means they choose actors)
3. The directors and actors rehearse the play (that means they practice it).
4. A team of people works on building the set, costumes and props.
5. The play opens (that means it is performed for the first time)!

Were there other terms that came from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about?



BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Boston to Burbank and many schools, museums theaters and community events in between. Each season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows. Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in any part of the world.

THE STORY OF ANNE FRANK

Created by Bright Star Touring Theatre-Lead Authorship carried out by Erin Schmidt, All Rights Reserved.

Learn more about this show, this company & our whole Season:

www.brightstartheatre.com

The Story of Anne Frank
Made it's debut in September 2015

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience:

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