



Wagner College
Holocaust Center
INSPIRE COURAGE

Study Guide For Students and Teachers April 2026



St. George Theater Presents

The Diary of Anne Frank

*by Francis Goodrich and Albert Hackett,
One Act Version by Wendy Kesselman*

directed by Mickey Tennenbaum

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 2026
10-1130 AM
grades 5-12

JOIN US FOR A POWERFUL PLAY THAT BRINGS HER WRITINGS TO LIFE. WITNESS ANNE'S EXPERIENCES IN HIDING DURING THE HOLOCAUST, CAPTURING HER RESILIENCE, HOPE, AND ENDURING SPIRIT. JOIN US FOR A PERFORMANCE OF REMEMBRANCE, REFLECTION, AND THE TIMELESS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND HUMANITY.
THEMES: HISTORY, SOCIAL STUDIES, HOLOCAUST AWARENESS



**"How wonderful it is that no one has to wait, but
we can start right now to gradually change the
world!" -Anne Frank
March 26th, 1944.**

This guide was created for students and teachers to use prior to and following the presentation of **The Diary of Anne Frank** at the St. George Theater. **The Diary of Anne Frank** has been translated into 70 different languages and more than 30 million copies have been sold.

The German invasion of the Netherlands occurred May 10, 1940, about a year after World War II began. Anne was ten years old, quickly approaching her eleventh birthday. In July 1942, while living in Amsterdam with her family, she was told she needed to pack up her belongings and hide in a secret annex. She took her most important possessions with her including her precious diary, which she was gifted for her 13th birthday. Anne continued to document her experiences during her two-year time in hiding. She lived alongside seven other people in hiding: her parents, her sister Margot, the van Pels family (called van Daan), and Fritz Pfeffer, until their arrest by the Dutch police in August 1944.

The story of Anne Frank (1929-1945) highlights hope, empathy and strength – lessons that are universal and timeless. Our hope is that students walk away with a better understanding of this story and a heightened sense of courage and compassion.

“Our freedom was severely restricted by a series of anti-Jewish decrees: Jews were required to wear a yellow star; Jews were required to turn in their bicycles; Jews were forbidden to use streetcars; Jews were forbidden to ride in cars, even their own...” (June 20, 1942)

Reading Anne’s words, how did the Nazis affect life in the Netherlands?

Why is it still important to study the story of Anne Frank?

Anne and her family moved from Germany to the Netherlands to escape Nazi tyranny at the start of 1933. How do you think her story as a young refugee compares to the refugees of today?

Do you think personal testimony such as Anne's diary is more powerful than information in a textbook or film? Why?

Anne famously wrote "Paper has more patience than people." (June 20, 1942.) Why did Anne think she could confide more in her diary than in people?

The Frank family relied on the support of Miep Gies and other non-Jewish helpers. Miep was always in danger of being found out and severely punished. These righteous individuals risked their livelihoods and futures to save one or many lives. What lessons can we learn from the people like Miep Gies that helped hide Anne and her family?

In the play, Anne says "in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart". What do you think is fueling her empathetic view of the world?

To escape persecution, the Frank family relocated to Amsterdam in 1934 to live freely. Do you think Staten Island is an accepting place for all people trying to find a safe home? Why or Why not?

A **hate crime** as an offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity. How would you respond if you knew someone affected by a hate crime?

Resources: “Who is Anne Frank?” video, Anne Frank House
<https://www.annefrank.org/en/anne-frank/who-was-anne-frank/>



Anne Frank (age 6 in photo) had a lot of hope for her future and the world. Yet, like 1.5 million other Jewish children, she was killed by the Nazis. Why do you believe she has become such a powerful symbol all around the world?

We are honored to be joined at our performance by **Leo Ullman** (b.1939), who survived the Holocaust in hiding in Amsterdam, like Anne Frank.

We are grateful to our lead sponsor, **District Attorney Michael McMahon** and the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force. The Wagner College Holocaust Center appreciates all our supporters including the **Mayor’s Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes**, NYC Councilperson Kamillah Hanks, [the Staten Island Advance/silive.com](#) and individual donors.

Send us **your poem or art** reflecting on loving your neighbor for our annual contest and prizes. For more information, to schedule a tour or to make a donation, please contact Prof. Lori Weintrob, Director, at holocaust.center@wagner.edu.