



The Diary Of A Young Girl



CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
PREET VIHAR, DELHI - 110092



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Foreword

The course of English at the Secondary level has been designed keeping in mind the academic and professional challenges to be faced by today's students. Simultaneously, it is expected that the students be aware of the historical, cultural and social changes in the world over the years. In order to fulfil this objective, the book 'The Diary of Young Girl by Anne Frank' has been prescribed for the students of class X. The book presents before them a reality that, fortunately, none of them has experienced. Nevertheless, it is a reality that they should know about - the reality of the human experiences during the World War -II.

There are multiple versions of this book which are available for use. However, in order to make the book age-appropriate and to provide a standard book to students of all schools affiliated to the Board, the book has been published by the Board. To facilitate deeper thinking among students and to create a fascination for good literature, reflections have been given at various pages in the book. On one hand, these reflections are the main points which the book highlights and, on the other, they would enable the students to develop a fresh and impartial perspective towards the perpetual key issues, like Relationships, Adaptability, Health, Food, Life Skills, Values etc. I am sure that the students of class X would be able to evolve as good human beings and relate to the brave, empathetic and considerate protagonist of the book, Anne, who is of their age group.

I appreciate the efforts of Sh. Manoj Kr. Srivastava, Joint Secretary & In-charge (Academics) for initiating this endeavor of providing an age-appropriate and standardized version of this book. Under his guidance, the members of the editorial board of the book, Dr. Praggya M. Singh, Joint Director, Dr. Sweta Singh, Joint Director and Ms. Neha Sharma, Deputy Director, have worked diligently to identify the pivotal points of the book and have come up with thoughtful reflections. They also deserve a word of appreciation.

Feedback/ suggestions for further improvement are welcome.

R.K.Chaturvedi, IAS
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Preface

Aldous Huxley writes, "Words can be like X-rays if you use them properly – they'll go through anything. You read and you're pierced." It is true as whenever we wish to share our innermost thoughts with others, we do it through words- either by writing or by reading. Words, when written, provide an appropriate outlet to our conscious and unconscious emotions. We tend to write about the things we experience in our daily lives; incidents that have shaped up our personalities; people who have directly or indirectly affected our lives. Diary Writing is one such form.

The present book, *The Diary of a Young Girl*, is a non-fiction, diary of a young teenage Jewish girl, Anne Frank. Set in the backdrop of World War -II and the Holocaust, during which the Jewish community faced inconceivable atrocities, the book gives a vivid account of the Franks and the Van Dannels who remain in hiding in "secret annexe" for two years during the World War -II. While war rages outside, Anne, like a normal teenager, thinks about a host of events happening around in the "secret annexe", simultaneously grappling with her developmental issues and forming her opinions based on day's observations.

Her writing elaborates her deeply sensitive nature and empathy towards everyone, be it her friends or her pet. With each passing day, her relationship with her parents, sister and the Van Dann family undergoes transitions, and , with each passing moment, she evolves as a mature human-being. In fact, at times, her accounts are quiet philosophical- something unusual for a thirteen year old girl.

This diary manifests the supremacy of love and human values amidst a real life situation, horrifying circumstances and complex characters. The first person narration of the diary makes it all the more appealing. The thought- processes of a teenager, her point of view and her gradual adaptation to the circumstances are a few of many striking features of this book.

It is a thought-provoking book, laden with innumerable instances of Life Skills. This is one such book through which each one of us -of any age and nationality- can learn.