

# ***Book Recommendation***

## ***Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl***

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*Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* is a diary written by a teenage Jewish girl, Anne Frank. This classic of war literature narrates Frank's life in hiding for two years (1942-1944) during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. It is not only an evaluable historical record of the Second World War, but also follows the teenage girl's growth amid confusion, self-doubt, reflection and hope.

Anne Frank's diary is compelling with its immediacy and honesty. Frank receives the diary as a present on her 13th birthday and starts to narrate her care-free school time, and then her hiding in claustrophobic conditions in "the Secret Annex" with seven other Jews including her family. The twist of fate hits her hard, firstly, with the loss of her cat Moortje, which she must leave behind when going into hiding. What follows is her confession of having no friends, a strained relationship with her mother, an observation of her body change and mood change, her obsession with love, tension and boredom among the Jews in the Annex, and, above all, her fear for the Nazi. Her warm heartfelt narration is so vivid that readers would feel as if they knew Frank personally.

The diary conveys an important message – how it feels to be a Jew during the war. Frank's voice is direct when stating her opinions of the war and of the horrifying treatment of the Jews and more. It is sad to read these thoughts because we readers know that she was captured by the Nazi in 1944 and sent to a concentration camp, where she died of typhus. However, she was a cheerful person who tried her best to stay positive and hopeful. The most moving aspect of the diary is her hope for life. Once, looking at the sky seeking comfort, she said, "As long as you can look fearlessly at the sky, you'll know that you're pure within and will find happiness once more."

For some diary entries made later, Frank adds retrospective comments, which show a more mature Frank who can reflect on her past. I strongly recommend this book especially to teenagers as Frank's self-doubt and confusion remind me of my teenage years. In fact, everyone of us has gone through such phases of life. As long as we reflect on the struggles and fragility we have met, we will discover strength and hope.



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