

# THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

The Frank family, the Van Daan family and Dussel are all German Jews.

### **ANNE FRANK**

13 year-old girl, ages to 15, warm, witty, intelligent, charming, self-aware, sensitive, often impatient, sometimes a know-it-all, open, determined, easily hurt, spirited, hopeful, fun-loving, desperate, with all the longings, expectations and attitudes that adolescence brings. Though hiding and living in constant fear and isolation, she never gave up. She had a fraught relationship with her mother, adored her father, and lovingly envied her sister.

### **MARGOT FRANK**

15 year-old sister of Anne, ages to 17, pretty, quiet, obedient, demure, frail, friendly, very intelligent, overwhelmed by the trials of hiding, very close to her mother and father. Like Anne, she longed for a friend in whom she could confide. She played the role of peacemaker when Anne overstepped. She was a good girl and was admired by all.

### **OTTO FRANK**

Father of Anne and Margot and head of the group living in his Annex, middle 40s to early 50s, upper middle class background, a wise man, fair, loyal, attentive, patient, intelligent, soft, level-headed, optimistic, genuinely liked people, decision-maker, teacher, beloved by his workers who protected him and his family as well as the other tenants of the Annex throughout the war. He was especially susceptible to Anne's charms. He was devoted to his wife, Edith, and comforted her whenever she was depressed about their living conditions, the attitudes of the van Daans/Dussel, or her relationship with Anne.

### **EDITH FRANK**

A lovely woman, wife and mother, mid-40s, from a wealthy German family, reticent, loving, moral, concerned, gracious, cultured, devoted to tradition, devastated by her relationship with Anne, barely able to cope with the demands of everyday life in hiding and isolation, tries very hard to accommodate the lower middle-class van Daan family whose uncouth and argumentative ways are an irritant to her and causes her to finally erupt into a seething rage.

### **MRS. VAN DAAN**

Mid 40s, loud, egotistical, talky, often crude, suspicious, bossy, moody, self-important, overbearing, critical of others, flirtatious, manipulative, sometimes depressed, enjoys a good laugh or story, more accepting of her introverted son, delusional about her younger self's popularity and looks, feels if she is the Queen Bee in the group, chafes under her husband's control, tries to run the household. A big stirrer-upper! Yet she is amazingly acceptable.

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## **MR VAN DAAN**

Mid-40s to 50s, dour, selfish, complaining, ungrateful, superficial, quarrelsome, dictatorial, highly critical of his son Peter, easily irritated, is rather withdrawn from the other occupants of the Annex. His transgression causes the great blow-up in the Annex.

## **PETER VAN DAAN**

17 year-old boy, ages to 19, withdrawn, unsure, awkward, immature, shy, sometimes amusing, tries to stay out of everyone's way, hates his mother and father's constant quarrels, ages from the introverted teenager to the more mature 19 year-old who enjoys the company of the girls and who begins to be interested in all the other occupants of the Annex.

## **DUSSEL**

Mid-40s-50, dentist, stodgy, old-fashioned, disciplined, hypercritical, selfish, horrified at Anne's behavior, genuinely does not like people, picky, unhappy with everything, a man who has not come to terms with his situation, whiny, a perfectionist, ungrateful, and easily angered.

## **MIEP**

25-40, Austrian refugee living in the Netherlands, employed by Mr. Frank, entrusted by Otto Frank with provisioning the occupants of the Annex and hiding them from the outside world, she collected fake ration cards, purchased all their foodstuffs, visited the library on their behalf, and generally tried to keep their spirits up. She was courageous, empathetic, compassionate, and friendly.

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## Monologues – Female (Pick 1 Below or Perform a Monologue You’ve Prepared)

### **Anne:**

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1942. A few days ago, Father began to talk about going into hiding. He sounded so serious I felt scared. “Don’t worry, Anneke. Just enjoy your carefree life while you can.” Carefree? I was born in Frankfurt on June twelfth, 1929. Because we’re Jewish, my father emigrated to Holland in 1933. Hitler invaded Holland on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1940. Five days later the Dutch surrendered, the Germans arrived – and the trouble started for the Jews. At five thirty this morning, we closed the door of our apartment behind us. The unmade beds, the breakfast things on the table all created the impression we’d left in a hurry.

### **Mrs. Frank:**

Oh, Miep... I remember when a New Year was something to look forward to... to have hope. There’s no hope to be had, now. I know that. I knew it the night Hitler came to power, when that voice came screaming out of the radio. I sat there paralyzed. And now in London, what is the Dutch Queen doing? What are they all doing? They’re not even *mentioning* the word Jew. The trains are still leaving. Why don’t they bomb the tracks? (*Miep is silent*). I can’t talk about this with the others, Miep. I know they’re making plans, counting the days till the war is over, but I have something to tell you... I feel the end will never come. (*Pause*) Sometimes... sometimes I want to give myself up.

### **Mrs. Van Daan:**

One summer, we had a big house in Hilversum. The boys came buzzing around like bees around a jam pot. And when I was sixteen! ... we were wearing our skirts very short those days and I had good looking legs. I still have ’em. I may not be as pretty as I used to be, but I still have my legs. How about them, Mr. Frank? What do you think? (*To Anne*) My father used to worry about me with so many boys hanging around. He told me, if any of them gets fresh, you say to him ... (*She holds up a warning finger.*) “Remember Mr. So-and-So, remember I’m a lady.” (*She chuckles and quietly reminisces.*)

### **Margot**

I don’t even know what home would be like anymore. I can’t imagine it – we’ve been away so long. To be outside again. To walk along the canal... I’m afraid to let myself think about it. To have a real meal – it doesn’t seem possible. Will anything taste the same? Look the same? (*More and more serious.*) I don’t know if anything will ever ... be the same again. How can we go back... really. (*Looking at Anne’s wistful face*) You know what I’ve decided? To be a nurse. For newborns. Go far, far away... I don’t know... Maybe to Palestine. (*To Anne*) Maybe you’ll go back to school in October... September even. Wouldn’t that be something, Anneke!

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## Monologues – Male (Pick 1 Below or Perform a Monologue You’ve Prepared)

### **Mr. Frank**

Now. Everyone. A few things. Quickly! We have to get organized before eight. Anne! Sit down, please. First, about the noise. While the workmen are in the building – from eight to six – we must keep completely quiet. So no shoes. And move only when absolutely necessary. No trash can ever be thrown out – not even a potato peel. We’ll burn everything in the stove at night. We can’t go outside. We can’t look out a window. No coughing. If possible, no fevers. Remember – we can never call a doctor. This is the way we must live ... until it is over (*Smiling*) But... after six we can talk, laugh, play games, move around just as we would at home... like one family.

### **Mr. Dussel**

All over Amsterdam, Jews are disappearing... torn out of bed in the middle of the night... the screams. Children come home from school – their parents are gone. Women come back from shopping – whole families... vanished. It’s impossible to escape unless you go into hiding. Thousands are being taken away. Deported. The Blumbergs, Professor Hallenstein – You have five minutes to get ready. Bring only what you can carry in a rucksack. Herded into the Jewish Theatre for days, weeks sometimes, and then... Westerbork. The transit camp. From there, every Tuesday, like clockwork, a train leaves for ... the East (*a moment of stunned silence*).

### **Mr. Van Daan**

(*To Anne*) Why aren’t you nice and quiet like your sister Margot? Why do you have to show off all the time? Let me give you a little advice, young lady. Men don’t like that kind of thing in a girl. You know that? A man likes a girl who will listen to him once in a while... a domestic girl, who’ll keep her house shining for her husband... who loves to cook and sew... You’ll never find a man acting as you do.

### **Peter**

I’m not miserable ... anymore. I mean... even bumping into you on the stairs sometimes I feel... (*he stops*)... You’ve changed. I used to think you were a pain in the neck, but now... (*Pause*) ... I bet you’ll forget about me once your back with your old friends, and that’s okay... not much to remember. I’ll tell you one thing. When we get out of here, I’m going to make sure nobody knows I’m Jewish. I’m serious. Life would be a whole lot easier if I were a Christian. Maybe I’ll even get baptized. I don’t know, but maybe.