

7-8th Grade Student Guide

Instructions: What do you want to say and how do you want to say it? This Student Guide will help you decide. Read the background information and answer the “Finding Your Inspiration” questions to help decide what your message is and how you will use art or writing to communicate that message. Then use the “Creating Your Project” worksheet to make a plan for putting it all together.

Background Information:

Anne Frank was a Jewish girl who was born in Germany in 1929. She was a young girl when Hitler came to power in Germany. Sensing that things might become dangerous for Jews in Germany, Anne’s parents, Otto and Edith Frank, moved the family to Amsterdam, Netherlands. Anne and her sister Margot went to school while their father worked at his own company and their mother ran the home.

In 1939, the Nazis invaded Poland and World War II began. In 1940, the Nazis invaded the Netherlands and introduced laws that restricted the rights of Jewish people. Anne wrote in her diary about how Jews had to wear a yellow star on their clothing, they had curfews, they could not go to movie theaters, parks, or pools, and could only go to certain shops and stores.

In the summer of 1942, Margot, received a call-up notice to report for deportation to a labor camp. The Frank family chose to go into hiding, and four other Jewish people hid with them.

Several non-Jewish friends and coworkers helped the people in hiding. They didn’t just keep the secret safe, but also provided food, clothing, medicine, and other supplies that they might need. They also kept everyone up-to-date on current events.

On August 4, 1944, the eight people in hiding were discovered and arrested. Two of the helpers were also arrested and eventually released. Anne and her family were sent to Westerbork, a transit camp in the Netherlands, and then to Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. Anne got sick with typhus and died in February 1945 when she was only 15 years old. The only one from the hiding place to survive was Otto.

Reflection Questions:

- What do you know about Anne Frank?
- What more do you want to know?
- What do you know about the Holocaust?
- What more do you want to know?

What does a better world look like to you?

Just before Anne Frank and her family moved into their hiding place, she wrote that “it’s as if the whole world had suddenly turned upside down” (July 8, 1942). The world was at war, the Nazis controlled much of Europe and had begun the mass murder of millions of Jews.

In one of Anne’s last diary entries she wrote:

“I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness, I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too, I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more. In the meantime, I must hold on to my ideals. Perhaps the day will come when I’ll be able to realize them!” (July 15, 1944).

Finding your inspiration:

What does peace and tranquility look like to you?

What ideals are important to you?

What changes do you want to see in the world?

How can those changes happen?

Use the space below to jot or sketch your thoughts:



The Power of Choice:

Two of the helpers, Miep Gies and Bep Voskuijl found Anne's diary entries and kept them in a safe place. They hoped that one day they would be able to give the diary back to Anne. Miep was given a lifetime achievement award from the Anti-Defamation League in 1996. In her speech, she said:

"...I could not save Anne's life. However, I did save her diary, and by that I could help her most important dream come true. In her diary she tells us that she wants to live on after her death. Now, her diary makes her really live on, in a most powerful way! And that helps me in those many hours of deep grief. It also shows us that even if helping may fail to achieve everything, it is better to try than to do nothing."

Finding your inspiration:

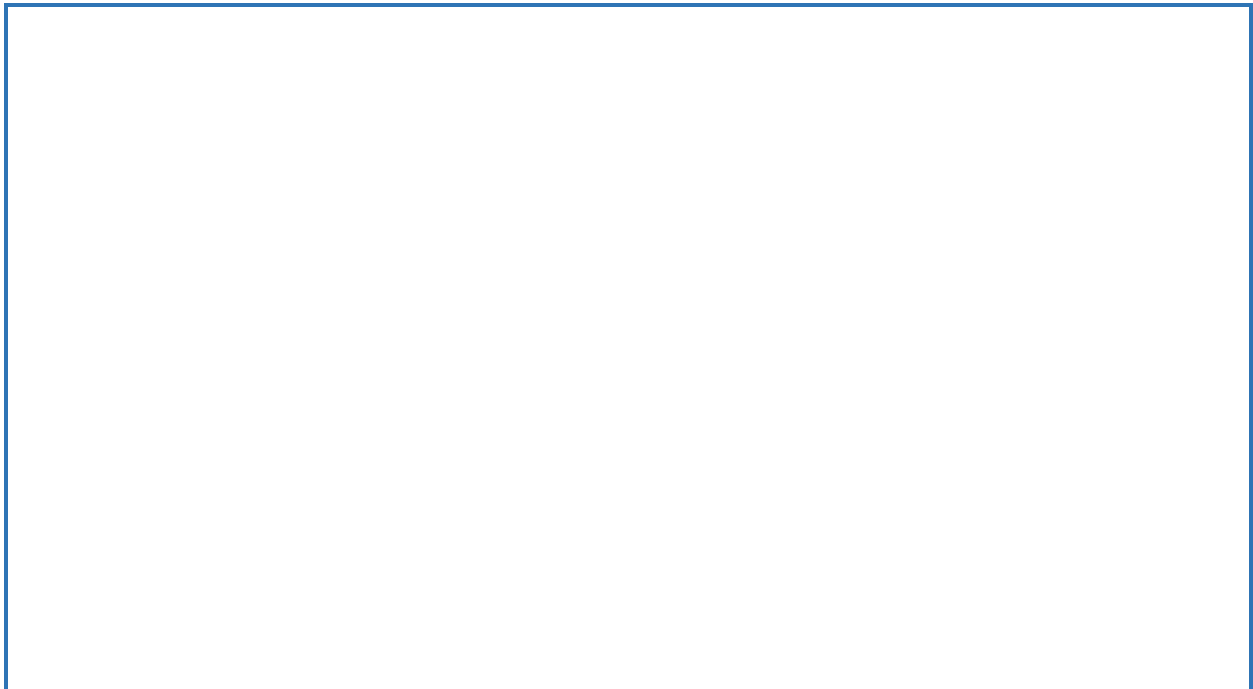
What did the helpers do for the people in hiding?

What might have motivated the helpers to help?

What were the risks involved?

What impact did their actions have?

Use the space below to jot or sketch your thoughts:



What can you do to make our world a better place?

Anne received a diary from her parents for her 13th birthday, and wrote in it as if she were confiding to a friend. She wrote about daily life in the secret annex and shared her thoughts, feelings, and hopes. She also shared her reflections on the importance of kindness, goodness, and responsibility. For example:

“Even though I am only fourteen, I know what I want, I know who’s right and who’s wrong, I have my own opinions, ideas and principles, and though it may sound odd coming from a teenager, I feel I’m more of a person than a child” (March 17, 1944).

“How noble and good everyone could be if, at the end of each day, they were to review their own behavior and weigh the rights and wrongs. They would automatically do better at the start of each new day and, after a while, would certainly accomplish a great deal” (July 6, 1944).

“How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment, we can start now, start slowly changing the world!” (From her short story, “Give!”).

Finding your inspiration:

What influences the choices you make?

What do you think is right or good?

Who is responsible for making the world a better place?

What power does one person have to make a difference?

What can you do to make the world a better place?

Use the space below to jot or sketch your thoughts:

Art & Writing

Instructions: Now that you have used the “Finding Your Inspiration” questions to help decide what your message is and how you will use art or writing to communicate that message, use this worksheet to make a plan for putting it all together.

Step one: Reflect and Jot

Think about a piece of art or writing that you have seen or read, and write your thoughts about the following questions in the space provided below:

- What drew you to it?
- What effect did it have on you?
- How did it make you feel?
- Did it impact your thoughts or actions?
- Why do you think the composer created that piece?

Step two: Determine your message

Think about what you want people to know, think, feel, and do after seeing or reading your piece.

Complete this statement: The message that I would like to communicate to the viewers or readers of my piece is that...

Step three: Determine your audience

Who will see or read your piece of art or writing?

What do you know about this audience?

Step four: Design and Communication

What medium will you use?

- Poetry
- Prose
- 2 Dimensional Art
- 3 Dimensional Art

How can you use this medium to communicate your message? How will you make your point to the viewer or reader? What materials, symbols, words, or other elements will you use?

Step five: Draft your Statement of Purpose

Your entry must be accompanied by a Statement of Purpose in which you:

1. State your message
2. Explain the meaning of your piece
3. Explain its connection to the theme, inspiration, and prompt

*The final version of your Statement of Purpose may not exceed 250 words
and must be written in complete sentences!*