



OwlTeacher
Teaching with Movies & Literature

ANNE FRANK: THE WHOLE STORY

Good for the following school subjects:

- ✓ World History
- ✓ American History
- ✓ World War TWO

Directed by Robert Dornhelm
2001; Rated TV-14; Drama; 189 minutes; Color;
Available from www.OwlTeacher.com bookstore

Synopsis: This film is based on Anne Frank's diary which she kept while hiding with her family and four other people from the Nazis during World War II. This story includes what happened after the family was discovered and sent to concentration camps, thanks to her father's (the only survivor from the group in hiding) testimony.

Educational Benefits of this movie: While there have been numerous movies made based on Anne Frank's diary, none have gone on to tell what Anne and her family and fellow hidiers experienced and suffered at Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, and other concentration camps. This film also follows Anne's father after the war when he discovers Anne's diary. This film allows students to understand the horrors of Nazi anti-Semitism and shows how hate and prejudice killed six million innocent human beings. This film is an excellent addition to a World War II unit, specifically when discussing Hitler's Holocaust. Bring tissues to class; in my experience even the toughest boys in the class have shed a tear.

Study Questions:

1. What kind of a girl do you think Anne Frank was? Describe her character.
2. What would you do if laws were passed against you because of, say, the color of your hair, eyes or skin, your grades in school, or your height? How would you feel and react?
3. Imagine that Anne survived the concentration camps. Write a brief account of what she did when she grew up.
4. The Holocaust was the pinnacle of anti-Semitism against the Jewish people. However, it wasn't the first time that Jews were victims of hate and fear. Research and write briefly about other times when pogroms killed Jewish people.
5. It was extremely dangerous to be a Jew during Hitler's Third Reich. What were some of the dangers Jews faced?



6. As you watch the movie, what are some ways you see that Hitler limited the freedom of the Jewish population?
7. Describe the ways in which Otto Frank quietly prepared for the worst without telling his family:
8. What finally prompted Otto Frank to take the family into hiding?
9. Miep Gies, Otto Frank's assistant, risked her safety to help the Franks. What were the consequences for anyone who helped Jews go into hiding? Why do you think Miep Gies risked everything for the Franks?
10. Why do you think Miep Gies saved Anne's diary when the family is taken away by the Gestapo?
11. Anne Frank's diary has been translated into countless different languages and is read throughout the world. Why do think the diary has had such an enormous impact?
12. Even after Anne has been torn from her family, shaved, and starved, she still possesses her dignity and self-respect. How was this portrayed in the movie?

Project:

Make a CD of five to seven songs that represent the themes/characters/events in the movie. Include one song for Anne's life before the war, during the restrictions imposed on Jews, during hiding, when they were discovered and traveling by train, and during their time in the concentration camp. In other words, choose one song for each important period in Anne's short life. You can use any song you wish from classics, oldies, and modern hits. It is up to you! Make a cover for the CD case and include liner notes that briefly explain why you chose each song. Students will present their CDs in class.