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Activity Guide

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A Picture Book of Anne Frank

ABOUT THE STORY

This book introduces a difficult part of history to young readers. It describes the life and true experiences of Anne Frank, a young Jewish victim of the Holocaust, who chronicled her years in hiding during World War II through diary entries.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David A. Adler has become well respected through his many biographical works which introduce young readers to famous Americans. In his books, Adler emphasizes the triumphant success of the person in light of the challenges they faced during their lives. There are currently over 25 titles in his biographical series "A Picture Book of...", many of which are also available as Live Oak Media Readalongs. Mr. Adler lives in New York with his wife and children. He is the author of more than seventy books for young readers.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Born in 1957 in Hudson, New York, Karen Ritz is the illustrator of several children's books, including *Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express* by Margaret Wetterer, also available as a Live Oak Media Readalong. Her illustrations in "Anne Frank" are based on actual photographs of the Frank family and their hiding place.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Explain to the group that a terrible event that has come to be known as the "Holocaust" took place in Europe in the 1930s-1940s. The German people were experiencing difficulties, and many people were out of work. When Adolf Hitler rose to power, he blamed Germany's hard times on the Jewish people (among others). Tell the students that to escape certain death in work camps, the Jewish people were forced to leave their homes and friends to search for hiding places. This book tells the story of the Frank family, who sought safety in a small, attic-like apartment, and after two years of hiding were found by the Nazis. The focus of this book is on the teenage daughter Anne, who recorded those years in a diary.

READING ACTIVITIES

Vocabulary

Be sure students have an understanding of the following terms. Depending on age, simply discuss the terms, or have children look them up in a dictionary.

Nazi Auschwitz
Holocaust annex
prejudice

Adolf Hitler
chancellor
Montessori School

refugee
tragedy
communists

typhus
translated

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- How did the Frank family's lives change after Adolf Hitler came to power?
- What were some of the preparations the Frank family made before they went into hiding?
- What were the difficulties the Frank family encountered while they were in hiding?
- What was the plan Mr. Frank told his family so that they would be able to find each other if they were separated?
- What was Anne's life like after the Nazis found her and her family?
- How old was Anne when she died?
- How many members of Anne's family survived the camps? Who?

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Oral Skills/Social Studies: Fostering Tolerant Children

Define prejudice as the pre-judging of another person, usually in a negative way. Explain that prejudice comes from thoughtless hatred or dislike of a person's color, religion, or nationality. Give some examples of prejudice, and then have the group offer their own examples. Extend this activity by further explaining that prejudice (as well as discrimination and segregation), have existed not only in Nazi Germany, but all over the world. Explain that the type of prejudice experienced by Anne Frank's family is known as anti-Semitism, and that prejudice can take many forms. Brainstorm with the group various instances of prejudice, discrimination, and segregation. Create a chart.

Math/Social Studies: A Timeline to Remember

Use the "Important Dates" section in the back of the book to create a time line. Ask children to answer word problems based on the time line (Example: If Anne was born in 1929 and she was sent to Auschwitz in 1944, how old was she at the time?), or give children blank time lines and have them fill in important dates.

Language Arts/Theater – Break a Leg!

Anne Frank loved to write stories and plays. Divide the class into small groups and have them each write a one or two act play. After they have been approved by you, have the students perform their play for the rest of the class.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Anne Frank

Using "Anne Frank" as the keyword, have children locate various pieces of biographical information about her. Assemble printed information into a class book display. Other keywords to search for extension activities could include the vocabulary terms listed above.