

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2024-2025 – Notes

Class: X Subject: English Topic: From the Diary of Anne Frank (First Flight)

Answer the following questions:

Q1. Why does Anne need to give a brief sketch about her family? Does she treat 'Kitty' as an insider or an outsider?

Ans. Anne gives an introduction of her family in the diary because she believed that if she didn't, people would not understand anything she wrote in it. She wanted people to understand who she was and what her background was. The significance of the diary in her life gains relevance primarily because of the fact that she was in search of a person she could confide in. No human being could be that special person, and this space was filled by Kitty. 'Kitty' was gifted to Anne by her father on her thirteenth birthday. Anne treated the diary as an insider and considered it to be her best friend with whom she shared all her thoughts and feelings.

Q2. How does Anne feel about her father, her grandmother, Mrs Kuperus and Mr Keesing? What do these tell you about her?

Ans. Anne felt that her father was the most adorable man she has ever seen. Anne remembered her grandmother even after her death. She wrote in her diary that no one knew how often she thought of her grandmother and still loved her.

In the sixth form at the Montessori nursery school, her teacher was Mrs Kuperus, who was also the headmistress. At the end of the year, they were both in tears as they said a heart-breaking farewell.

Mr Keesing was her mathematics teacher. He was annoyed with her because she talked too much. However, Anne was able to justify her talkative nature every time she was punished by Mr Keesing. On each occasion, he was impressed by the manner in which she presented her arguments. All these incidents show how lovable and smart Anne was. Everybody was attached to her, and even Mr Keesing could not help but laugh at her essays and acknowledge her sharp mind.

Q3. What did Anne write in her first essay?

Ans. In her first essay, titled 'A Chatterbox', Anne wanted to come up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking. She wrote three pages before she was satisfied. She argued that talking was a student's characteristic and that she would do her best to keep it under control. She further wrote that she would never be able to cure herself of the habit, since her mother talked as much as she did, if not more. There was not much that one could do about inherited traits. Mr. Keesing had a good laugh while reading her arguments.

Q4. Anne says teachers are most unpredictable. Is Mr Keesing unpredictable? How?

Ans. Anne felt that a quarter of her class was dumb, and should be kept back and not promoted to the next level. However, she also felt that the teachers were the most unpredictable creatures on earth. Mr Keesing could be termed as unpredictable. The way Anne always talked while the class was going on, any teacher would lose his temper. However, after several warnings, all Mr Keesing did was to assign



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her extra homework. She had to write an essay on 'A Chatterbox'. In this way, he tried to play a joke on her. Each time he asked her to write such essays, she wrote well. She kept countering his jokes. One could not have predicted that he would take all the jokes in the right spirit. Finally, when she wrote an entire essay in verse, he accepted her talkative nature and actually allowed her to talk in class. He did not even assign her any more extra homework. That is why, it can be said that Mr Keesing was unpredictable.

Q5. "Paper has more patience than people". Elucidate.

Ans. Anne Frank felt lonely in the world. She had loving parents, an elder sister and a number of friends. But she was not very close with anyone. She could talk to them about common everyday matters. But she could not express her inner feelings to them. She wanted a patient listener with a sympathetic heart. But she found that people had no patience to listen to her. She could not relieve the feelings of her heart to anyone. Anne wanted to lighten the burden of ideas from her heart. So she decided to maintain a diary. A diary is not a human being. It has a lot more patience than man. One can express one's thoughts freely. The diary does not get bored. It is a true friend. It never rejects the offer of friendship. That is why, Anne Frank says that paper has more patience than people.



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