

Madison Graham

Mar 23, 2023

Mrs. Hazen

Anne Frank

The Nazi German regime and its allies and collaborators conducted a systematic, state-sponsored oppression and murder of six million European Jews, known as the Holocaust. Anne Frank was a Jewish Holocaust victim from Germany who kept a diary throughout her ordeal. The Diary of Anne Frank may be the first and only view many people have of the history of the Holocaust. She is now famous for her diary, which her father published.

Annelies Marie Frank was born on June 12, 1929, in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Her parents were Otto and Edith Frank. Anne spent the first five years of her life in an apartment on the outskirts of Frankfurt with her parents and older sister, Margot. After the Nazis took power in 1933, Otto Frank ran off to Amsterdam in the Netherlands, which is where he had business connections. The rest of the family soon joined; however, Anne was the last one in the family to arrive in February of 1934 after staying with her grandparents in Aachen. Later, during the first half of July 1942, Anne and her family went into hiding, where they were soon joined by four other Jews. For two years, they lived in a secret attic apartment located at 263 Prinsengracht Street, which was behind the business office where Otto worked as company director. The Secret Annex was what Anne named the secret hiding place when talking about it in her diary. For Anne's 13th birthday on June 12, 1942, she received her first diary. This diary is where Anne wrote about her fears, hopes, and experiences while hiding. Along with this, Anne wrote short stories, fairy tales, and essays. On September 2, 1943, Anne started to carefully copy her "pen children," or her writings, onto a notebook. She added a table of contents so that this notebook would be similar to a published book. (Anne Frank Biography)

Anne Frank died in Bergen-Belsen in February or March 1945 at the age of 15. Anne, along with her sister, died of typhus. Otto Frank was the only member of their family to survive the war. Shortly after, Otto was introduced to Anne's writing. Miep Gies, who was one of the Dutch citizens who hid with the Franks, saved Anne's writings. Otto was determined to get Anne's writings published, first in Dutch in 1947, and then, in 1952, the first American version was published. At first, *The Diary of Anne Frank* was not a best seller; now it is exceedingly popular, with over 30 million copies. This is the most well-known version of the diary. Nonetheless, not all the versions include Anne's critiques of her mother or information about her mother and growing interests. The home where the Franks hid in Amsterdam throughout the Holocaust and the war is similarly popular and draws the attention of many people. This house is now known as the Anne Frank House, which many people now visit. In 2017, the house attracted over 1.2 million visitors. (Anne Frank: Diary)

Six million European Jews were killed in the Holocaust, and approximately 1.5 million of the victims were children. Millions of children experienced severe oppression from the Nazis and their Axis allies. However, very few of these children kept diaries and journals that have survived. In these diaries and journals, each child wrote about something different but mainly wrote about their experiences, confessed their feelings, and thought about the trauma they went through during these horrific years. Each child's diary or journal represents themselves and what they have dealt with. In addition to this, each child came from a different background. Someone may have come from a poor or peasant family, while someone else may have come from a middle-class professional family or grew up wealthy and privileged. Lots of these kids came from religious homes, while others didn't. With this all said, no matter the level of their personal faith, the vast majority of children who wrote in diaries or journals associated themselves with

Jewish tradition and culture. Additionally, children of “assimilated” Jewish parents who were from Germany, Austria, or the Czech lands made up refugee diaries, which were usually written in the late 1930s or early 1940s. Many of these diaries deal with the issue of displacement, while all these child writers had given up the comforts of their own homes to seek hideouts among strangers in faraway lands. Similar to Anne Frank, many other children had to hide to avoid the German authorities. So while hiding, they continued writing in their diaries or journals.

(Childrens Diaries during the Holocaust)

While these children may have died in horrific ways, some of their diaries still remain with us. We get to learn about what these children experienced, thought about, and felt throughout the Holocaust.

“CHILDREN'S DIARIES DURING THE HOLOCAUST.” *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/childrens-diaries-during-the-holocaust?series=1
97.