

# Diary of Anne Frank

Question 1: What makes writing in a diary a strange experience for Anne Frank?

Answer: Writing a diary is a strange experience for Anne Frank because of two reasons. The first reason is she has not written anything before. The second reason is the apparent disinterest which most of the people would show in musings of a thirteen year old girl.

Question 2: Why does Anne want to keep a diary?

Answer: She needs some channel through which she can get off all the burden and pain she is suffering from. Hence, she wants to keep a diary. Anne Frank is also searching for a friend in the form of her diary.

Question 3: Why did Anne think she could confide more in her diary than in people?

Answer: Anne Frank believes that paper has more patience than people. She believes that a diary will have more patience to listen to her plight. That is why she could confide more in her diary than in people.

Question 4: Why does Anne provide a brief sketch of her life?

Answer: A good introduction helps drawing reader's attention to the topic. Moreover, it gives background information about the topic. By providing brief sketch of her life, Anne gives an overview of her family, her relatives, and her age. This helps the reader to develop connect with the author.

Question 5: What tells you that Anne loved her grandmother?

Answer: Her statement, that no one could understand her intensity of love for her grandma tells that she loved her grandmother. Moreover, the touching gesture of lighting up one candle for grandmother during Anne's birthday is also a poignant reminder of the love for grandma.

Question 6: Why was Mr Keesing annoyed with Anne? What did he ask her to do?

Answer: Anne was fond of talking too much. It can be assumed that like all strict teachers Mr. Keesing thought talkativeness as distraction for study. So he was annoyed with Anne. He asked Anne to write an essay on 'chatterbox', the person who talks too much.

Question 7: How did Anne justify her being a chatterbox in her essay?

Answer: In her first essay Anne justified her talkativeness by explaining that it was in her genes, because her mother was also talkative.

Although detail about second essay is not given but it can be assumed that it was a good essay, because Mr. Keesing didn't complain about Anne's habit for a long time. In the last essay Anne made a humorous poem about a father duck and his ducklings. That essay amused and pleased Mr. Keesing so much that he stopped rebuking Anne for her talkativeness.

Question 8: Do you think Mr Keesing was a strict teacher?

Answer: Whatever actions a teacher takes, that is done in good intention. Teachers always think about knowledge development of child. It is the differences in perspective of students vis-à-vis that of teachers which creates an image of a strict teacher.

Mr. Keesing was also trying to control a supposedly bad habit of Anne. When he was convinced that Anne was good at writing and her talkativeness was not coming in the way of her studies then he started behaving properly with Anne.

Question 9: What made Mr Keesing allow Anne to talk in class?

Answer: Anne's last essay was like an anecdote. This helped Mr. Keesing to see the lighter side of a natural bubbly behaviour of a teenager. This helped bridge the generation gap between the teacher and the student.

Question 10: Was Anne right when she said that the world would not be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old girl?

Answer: Anne was probably right when she said that the world would not be interested in the musings of a thirteen year old girl. Most of the people do not want to see the world from a child's perspective because children are too immature for them. People seldom believe that a child can also have beautiful insights about the trials and tribulations of human life.

Question 11: There are some examples of diary or journal entries in the 'Before You Read' section. Compare these with what Anne writes in her diary. What language was the diary originally written in? In what way is Anne's diary different?

Answer: Anne Frank's diary was originally written in Dutch. Anne's diary was entirely different than most of the examples given before the text. It is somewhat closer to the memoir in which the name of Raj Kapoor has been mentioned. However, Anne's diary has informal tone which exudes the exuberance and carefree nature of a teenager.

Question 12: Why does Anne need to give a brief sketch about her family? Does she treat 'Kitty' as an insider or an outsider?

Answer: Anne understands that no one would believe that a thirteen year old girl was completely alone in this world. She needed to give a brief sketch about her family so that readers could correlate with her in a better way.

Question 13: How does Anne feel about her father, her grandmother, Mrs Kuperus and Mr Keesing? What do these tell you about her?

Answer: Anne has fond memories of her father, her grandmother, Mrs. Kuprus and Mr. Keesing. These persons had left indelible impressions on her mind. The way she tells about these person reveal that Anne was very good at understanding people and at developing interpersonal relations.

Question 14: What does Anne write in her first essay?

Answer: In her first essay on "Chatterbox", Anne wrote about the reasons of her being a chatterbox. In the essay; she accepted the drawbacks of being a talkative person but she was also frank enough to admit that it was difficult for her to give up the habit.

Question 15: Anne says teachers are most unpredictable. Is Mr Keesing unpredictable? How?

Answer: Mr. Kessing appears to be unpredictable; as Anne had said. No reaction by Mr Kessing after the second essay is a pointer to unpredictability. Even the reaction after the third essay shows unpredictability because Mr. Keesing's behavior was altogether different than what he earlier did.

Question 16: What do these statements tell you about Anne Frank as a person?

**We don't seem to be able to get any closer, and that's the problem. Maybe it's my fault that we don't confide in each other.**

Answer: Anne is searching for someone in whom she can confide

everything. She does not talk more than everyday affair with anyone. She may have failed to break her inhibitions; as indicated by her confession of being at fault.

**I don't want to jot down the facts in this diary the way most people would, but I want the diary to be my friend.**

Answer: Anne does not want to maintain a diary for the sake of maintaining a diary. She wants to jot down her true inner feelings so that she can be relieved off all the burdens. She appears like a person who wants to shift from a paradigm.

**Margot went to Holland in December, and I followed in February, when I was plunked down on the table as a birthday present for Margot.**

Answer: This sentence shows that Anne was very good at understanding a particular situation. "Plunking down on the table as a birthday present" shows the inconsequence of being Anne Frank.

**If you ask me, there are so many dummies that about a quarter of the class should be kept back, but teachers are the most unpredictable creatures on earth.**

Answer: Anne Frank appears to be more intelligent than fellow students in her class. She also has some satirical streak; as shown by her comment about teachers.

**Anyone could ramble on and leave big spaces between the words, but the trick was to come up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking.**

Answer: Anne is not the average student who relies on rote learning which could be regurgitated during examination. Anne wants to develop convincing arguments to justify a particular thought process or line of action. She does not believe in filling reams of pages with useless words in the name of writing.

# Amanda!

Don't bite your nails, Amanda!

Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!

Stop that slouching and sit up straight,  
Amanda!

*(There is a languid, emerald sea,  
where the sole inhabitant is me—  
a mermaid, drifting blissfully.)*

While Amanda's guardian is mouthing right behaviour lessons for her she is engrossed in her own world. She is dreaming of being a mermaid who is drifting blissfully in the sea. Drifting is different from swimming. While swimming amounts to controlled strokes, drifting is more careless. Swimming can be extraneous but drifting can be more pleasant.

Did you finish your homework, Amanda?

Did you tidy your room, Amanda?

I thought I told you to clean your shoes,  
Amanda!

*(I am an orphan, roaming the street.  
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.  
The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)*

Amanda is being asked if she has finished her homework, cleaned her room. But Amanda is feeling like an orphan who is roaming aimlessly in a street. Like carefree kid she is making patterns on soft dust with her bare feet. She has shut her ears to what is being told to her and instead enjoying the golden silence of her inner world.

Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!

Remember your acne, Amanda!

Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you,  
Amanda!

*(I am Rapunzel, I have not a care;  
life in a tower is tranquil and rare;  
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!)*

Rapunzel was a princess with long golden hair. Her hair was so strong that she used to drop her hair from the watch tower she was living in and her prince charming used to climb by using her hair.

But Amanda wants to enjoy the tranquility of her tower and doesn't want to let down her hair. She doesn't want any prince to disturb her peace.

Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!

You're always so moody, Amanda!

Anyone would think that I nagged at you,  
Amanda!

Her gloomy face provokes her guardian to scold her for looking so gloomy. Because the guardian thinks everybody will come to know that Amanda had been scolded.

Amanda's condition may be witnessed in every child's life. When you are told a long list of dos and don'ts then you feel that every time you are being made a target. A target of disciplined life and a life with strict moral code of conduct. Most of you feel like shutting off your mind from the outside world. It can be debatable if you should do that or not. But you should always remember that whatever you parents or teachers are telling are for your good only.

Biting nails can lead to worm infestation so stop doing if you are habituated to it. Cleaning up your room and other things will help you develop as a responsible individual. Doing homework develops a habit of accomplishing the task at hand.

These habits will help you in your adult life when you will be building your dream career.

**ROBIN KLEIN**

## **Amanda Summary of the poem**

The poem describes a girl named Amanda and her mother who is nagging her for her mistakes. She is first pointed out most probably by her mother for biting her nails and for not sitting in the right posture. The mother also feels that Amanda sits in a very lazy manner. To this, Amanda imagines herself as a mermaid who lives a calm and relaxing life in the beautiful green sea. Further, she is nagged for not cleaning

her room and shoes and also for not doing her homework. She then imagines herself to be an orphan because she is now fed up of being watched by her parents continuously. She says that she would have enjoyed her freedom then, by making the patterns of her bare feet on the sand and would live a peaceful life. Next, Amanda is scolded for eating too many chocolates as this causes pimples. She is also scolded for not listening to her mother. So, now Amanda thinks of being Rapunzel, a character from a fairy tale and wants to live in a huge tower like her. In the tower she will be alone and will live a peaceful life and will never allow anyone to come in. Finally, the mother asks her to stop being moody because she doesn't want anyone to blame her for harassing her daughter. At this time the poet has not written any reaction from Amanda's side. This constant nagging has made her so sad that she has even stopped to imagine herself as someone else. She used to do so in order to escape from the continuous harassment and dominance of her parents.

## Amanda Poem and explanation



Don't bite your nails, Amanda!  
Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!  
Stop that slouching and sit up straight,  
Amanda!  
(There is a languid, emerald sea,  
where the sole inhabitant is me—  
a mermaid, drifting blissfully.)

Hunch: bend

Slouching: sitting in a lazy way

Languid: relaxed  
Emerald: here, green color  
Inhabitant: resident  
Drifting: carried slowly by the water  
Blissfully: happily

The poet is describing Amanda, a little girl who is always pointed out by her mother for her mistakes and how she imagines her life to be. The poet says that the mother is pointing out Amanda for biting nails which is a bad habit. Next she asks her to sit straight without bending her shoulders. Amanda who has habit of bending her shoulders and sitting lazily is being pointed out because her mother wants her to sit in the right posture. At this point of time, when she is being scolded by her mother, she imagines herself to be in a deep green sea. She says that she wants to be the only resident of this beautiful green sea. She imagines herself like a mermaid who is alone there and leads her life in a very relaxing way. She says that she wants to be carried away by the current of water and feel the relaxing environment there.

Literary devices:

Anaphora: Repeated use of a word at start of two or more lines (don't bite... don't hunch)

Assonance: use of vowel sound 'o' (don't hunch your shoulders)

Rhyme: aaba ccc (Amanda, Amanda, straight, Amanda, sea, me, blissfully)

Metaphor: use of word emerald sea for green colour of sea being similar to the colour of emerald

Repetition: use of word 'Amanda'

Imagery: drifting blissfully

Alliteration: 'Stop that slouching and sit up straight' - 's' sound is being repeated at the start of closely placed words.

Allusion: 'mermaid' is a well known imaginary creature.



Did you finish your homework, Amanda?  
Did you tidy your room, Amanda?  
I thought I told you to clean your shoes,



Amanda!

(I am an orphan, roaming the street.

I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.

The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)

Orphan: A child whose parents are dead

Hushed: quiet and still place

Here the poet says that Amanda's mother is inquiring her about whether she has done her homework or not? And then she asks her whether she has cleaned her room or not. Moreover she is also reminded to clean her shoes. So, here we can see that the mother is constantly asking her questions regarding her homework being done or not or whether she had cleaned up her room and shoes or not. But on the other hand, while Amanda is listening to her mother's instructions, she imagines herself to be an orphan who is roaming in the streets. This means that she imagines if she would have been without parents she would have walked freely in the streets. She would have drawn designs on the soft dust with her uncovered feet very quietly. So, we can see that she thinks opposite to her mother. Her mother wants her to keep everything neat and clean. But Amanda wants to play in dust with her bare feet. Moreover, she is so fed up of these constant instructions from her mother, that she says silence is golden which means that silence is very crucial and precious. She further says that freedom is sweet. This means she never feels free when she is with her mother.

Literary devices:

Anaphora: Repeated use of a word at start of two or more lines (did you finish....did you tidy)

Rhyme: Rhyme scheme is aada eee (Amanda, Amanda, shoes, Amanda, street, feet, sweet)

Assonance: use of vowel sound 'o' (Thought, told, you, your, shoes)

Repetition: use of word 'Amanda'

Metaphor: silence is golden - silence is said to be glorious like golden colour  
freedom is sweet - freedom is said to be sweet in taste.



Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!  
Remember your acne, Amanda!  
Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you,  
Amanda!  
(I am Rapunzel; I have not a care;  
life in a tower is tranquil and rare;  
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!)

Acne: Pimples

Rapunzel: A girl in the fairy tale by Brothers Grimm

Tranquil: calm, quiet

Rare: uncommon

Next, Amanda's mother is disallowing her to eat chocolates. She reminds her of pimples that Amanda faces due to eating chocolates. At last she scolds her for not paying attention to what her mother says. At this moment Amanda imagines herself to be Rapunzel. Rapunzel was a character from a fairy tale that was captured in tower by a witch. The witch used to climb the tower with the help of long hair of Rapunzel that were let down by her through the window. So, now Amanda wants to be Rapunzel because she feels that life in the tower will be peaceful and unusual. She thinks she will be free and live in a peaceful environment in the tower. She also confirms to herself that she will never let her hair down to anyone so that nobody could come to her in the tower.

Literary devices:

Allusion: use of famous fairy tale character Rapunzel

Rhyme: rhyme scheme aafa ggg (Amanda, Amanda, you, Amanda, care, rare, hair)

Assonance: use of vowel sound 'e' and 'o' (Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you)

Consonance: use of sound 'r' (I am Rapunzel; I have not a care .....Bright hair)

Repetition: use of word 'Amanda'



Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!  
You're always so moody, Amanda!  
Anyone would think that I nagged at you,  
Amanda!

Sulking: be in a bad mood

Moody: unstable

Nagged: harass

Amanda's mother now warns her for behaving in a very odd manner. She asks her to stop being in a bad mood. Moreover she blames her of having such an unstable mood. She also scolds her by saying that her behavior will one day make people think that Amanda was constantly being harassed by her mother. So, here we can say that though Amanda is always pointed out by her mother on every small thing but she can't react to this. If she reacts towards this by getting emotional her mother takes this against her sense of pride and scolds her that she should not behave like this as others would think that Amanda's mother is very dominating towards her child.

Literary Devices:

Alliteration: 'Stop that sulking' - 's' sound is repeated at the start of closely placed words

Repetition: use of word 'Amanda'

Rhyme scheme: aaha (Amanda, Amanda, you, Amanda)

Question 1: How old do you think Amanda is? How do you know this?

Answer: Amanda appears to be a teenager. Terms; like 'Acne' and 'Sulking'; indicate towards Amanda being a teenager.

Question 2: Who do you think is speaking to her?

Answer: It is probably her mother or a guardian.

Question 3: Why are Stanzas 2, 4 and 6 given in parenthesis?

Answer: These stanzas tell the inner thoughts of Amanda. These are given in parenthesis to give a visual contrast so that readers can easily understand.

Question 4: Who is the speaker in Stanzas 2, 4 and 6? Do you think this speaker is listening to the speaker in Stanzas 1, 3, 5, and 7?

Answer: Amanda is the speaker in Stanzas 2, 4 and 6. She is not listening to the speaker in Stanzas 1, 3 and 7.

Question 5: What could Amanda do if she were a mermaid?

Answer: As a mermaid; Amanda could drift blissfully in the sea. Drifting is different from swimming. While swimming amounts to controlled strokes, drifting is more careless. Swimming can be extraneous but drifting can be more pleasant.

Question 6: Is Amanda an orphan? Why does she say so?

Answer: The way Amanda is being told about Dos and Dents, she cannot be an orphan. In this poem, the word 'orphan' has been used as a metaphor. We can compare it with street urchins who have all the time to enjoy their childhood.

Question 7: Do you know the story of Rapunzel? Why does she want to be Rapunzel?

Answer: Rapunzel was a princess with long golden hair. Her hair was so strong that she used to drop her hair from the watch tower she was living in and her prince charming used to climb by using her hair.

But Amanda wants to enjoy the tranquility of her tower and doesn't want to let down her hair. She doesn't want any prince to disturb her peace.

Question 8: What does the girl yearn for? What does this poem tell you about Amanda?

Answer: Amanda yearns for some freedom so that she could enjoy her growing years. Amanda is like most of the teenagers who want to have their own private spaces. It is true that some social conditioning and tutoring is necessary to develop people as better persons, but it is equally true that everyone should get some time to enjoy the bliss of freedom.

Question 9: Read the last stanza. Do you think Amanda is sulking and is moody?

Answer: Since Amanda had been scolded so she appears to be sulky and moody. But her inner thoughts of being a mermaid, of being a careless child, of being a princess on a solitary tower; show that she is a normal adolescent who has her own dreams and desires.