***UNIT 4- FROM THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK***

Summary

In this lesson, Anne talks about being lonely and having no one to talk to despite being surrounded by family and around 30 people whom she called her “friends”. Thus, she takes the decision of writing her feelings in a diary. It is unusual for her to write in a diary but she is really in need of a true friend. Thus, she decides to name her diary “kitty” and unlike other people, she is not going to mention just facts in it.

She starts with writing her background, to make it easier to understand for anyone who reads it later. She describes her family and early childhood when they all migrated, her early schooling.

After giving a brief account of her background, she comes to the present day where she tells us about the result day. Everyone in the class is nervous about their result and boys are even making bets. Anne was quite sure about herself and her friends.

She had a good equation with all the teachers except her maths’ professor, who was constantly annoyed at her for her talking habits. Thus, he started giving her punishments in the form of essays on weird topics such as “Chatterbox” to which she replied with full wit. She wrote essays that were funny and explained that this was a trait that she inherited from her mother and not much could be done about it. He kept on giving her essays until she wrote a satire.  After that third and last assignment, Mr Keesing never pointed her out for talking.

Question and Answers

***Q1. Grandma had a significant place in Anne’s life. Explain.***

***(Or) Describe Anne’s love for her grandmother. ( CBSE 2014, 2017)***

Ans. Anne loved her grandmother rather deeply. She stayed with her grandmother when her parents emigrated to Holland and developed a close bond with her. After grandmother’s death, lighting a special candle on her birthday as a mark of respect showed her love and fondness for her.

***Q.2 What does Anne write in her first essay? ( CBSE 2012)***

Ans. Anne tries to justify her habit of talking in the first essay ‘A Chatterbox’. She writes that talking is a student’s trait. Her mother talked too much and she had inherited that trait from her mother. It was difficult to give up inherited traits but she will try to keep it under control.

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Q1. What makes writing in a diary a strange experience for Anne Frank?

A. It was the first time Anne was writing in a diary. She felt that later no one would be interested in reading about the thoughts of a young girl. Both these facts made it a strange experience for her.

Q2. Why does Anne want to keep a diary?

A. Anne wanted to keep a diary and write in it because she had a lot going on in her head. She had no friend with whom she could talk about such personal matters. Thus, she decided to maintain a diary.

Q3. Why did Anne think she could confide more in her diary than in people?

A. According to Anne Frank, “paper has more patience than people”. She chose to confide more in her diary because she felt that people are not always interested in listening to you patiently and cannot be trusted to keep matters confidential.

Q4. Why does Anne provide a brief sketch of her life?

A. Anne feels it would be weird to just simply jot down facts without giving her background. In case someone might read it in future, he/she won’t be able to understand a word of her stories to Kitty (diary). Thus, she decided to provide a brief sketch of her life.

Q5. What tells you that Anne loved her grandmother?

A. The fact that Anne spent some part of her childhood with her grandmother is self-sufficient to imply connection between the two. Also, she explicitly mentioned in her diary that she misses her grandmother more than anyone is aware of is evident enough that she loved her grandmother.

Q6. Why was Mr Keesing annoyed with Anne? What did he ask her to do?

A. Mr Keesing, Anne’s Maths professor was annoyed with her because she would not stop talking during his lectures as a result of which, he gave her assignments as punishments.  
Q7. How did Anne justify her being a chatterbox in her essay?

A. Anne argued that ‘talking is a student’s trait ‘and that she would try to keep it under control . But Anne explained that she would never be able to cure herself of this habit as she had got this habit of speaking too much from her mother, mentioning that it was inherited.

Q8. What made Mr Keesing allow Anne to talk in class?

A. Anne did not stop talking even after being given extra homework, So, Mr. Keesing asked her to write an essay on ‘ Quack ,Quack, Quack , said Mistress Chatterbox.’ On being given the third assignment as punishment, Anne wrote a satirical piece which was quite promising. She wrote a poem about a father swan biting his three ducklings to death because they quacked too much. Mr. Keesing was trying to play a joke on her by giving her an essay on such a ridiculous subject. Now , the joke was on him. He took the joke in the right spirit and finally allowed her to talk.

Q9. Was Anne right when she said that the world would not be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old girl?

A. Yes, Anne was right in thinking that the world would not be interested in the musings of a thirteen - year - old girl. As she was a common girl, no one would want to know her feelings and so, no one would read her diary.

Q10. 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?

A. Anne’s diary was actually written in Dutch. Her diary is different from that of others on various aspects. She had named her diary “Kitty”. She thought of it as her only true friend. She could confide in Kitty. She treated it as another person because according to her, “Paper has more patience than people”. She started by writing “Dearest kitty” and ended the account by writing, “Yours Anne”.

Q11. Why does Anne need to give a brief sketch about her family? Does she treat ‘Kitty’ as an insider or an outsider?

A. Anne feels it would be weird to just simply jot down facts without giving her background. In case someone might read it in future, he/she won’t be able to understand vaguely stated facts. Thus, she decided to provide a brief sketch of her life. She treates “kitty” as an insider as it was her only true friend with whom she could share each and everything.

Q12. How does Anne feel about her father, her grandmother, Mrs Kuperus and Mr Keesing? What do these tell you about her?

A. According to Anne, her father is the most lovable man one could ever come across. She loved and missed her grandmother more than she showed. She was on good terms with her teachers except the old fogey, Mr Keesing who taught them Mathematics. The headmistress, Mrs Kuperus was her class teacher and both were very close to each other. Mr Keesing often punished Anne with extra assignments as a punishment for her talkative nature. These indicate that Anne was affectionate and a loving person and had the ability to understand others around her.

Q13. What does Anne write in her first essay?

A. In her essay, Anne mentions that she will try her best to minimise talking between lectures but this is a trait she inherited from her mother and it is difficult to eliminate an inherited trait. Also, her mother talks as much as she does, if not more. She also stressed that talking was a necessary quality for a good student.

Q14. Anne says teachers are most unpredictable. Is Mr Keesing unpredictable? How?

A. Yes, Mr Keesing is an unpredictable person. He is angry with Anne for being talkative in class and gives her extra assignments as a punishment. But later, he finds her essays to be witty and amusing. This brings a change in him and he accepts her arguments. He develops a funny bone too and starts cracking jokes in the class. This change in Mr Keesing’s nature shows that he is unpredictable.

Q15. What do these statements tell you about Anne Frank as a person?  
i. 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.

A. This shows that Anne does not confide in people very easily. It is difficult for her to make personal relations where she could share what’s going on in her mind.

ii. 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.

A. This statement indicates that Anne does not have a close friend she could confide in. She was lonely despite having family and friends. Thus, she wanted the diary to be her only true friend.

iii. 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.

A. This statement is indicative of the love between the sisters. On migration, Anne was the last one to be brought to Holland and it was done on the birthday of her elder sister to surprise her.

iv. 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.

A. Anne feels that there are many weak students in the class who should be detained. Almost one - fourth of the class did not deserve promotion but the teachers, decision could not be predicted.

v. 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.

A. Anyone could write senseless stuff while leaving big gaps in order to fill up a number of pages and submit the assignment easily. But Anne wanted to give such arguments which could prove that it was necessary for her to talk. She wanted to write sensible stuff.