

THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL

Anne Frank

Introduction:

The story of Anne Frank has inspired generations of readers for its candid and poignant description of her personal life as well as the political climate of her times. Written in the backdrop of the Second World War, her diary entries are an incisive commentary on one of the most shocking atrocities committed against humanity under Hitler's regime. Written originally in Dutch, it was translated into 70 languages with over 30 million copies sold. Anne Frank, a German born Jew hailing from a liberal family of Jews, was a precocious child endowed with perseverance, resilience and courage. She had a strong urge to study. Her ambition was to become a journalist. Anne and her elder sister Margot were smart and studious. Her resolve – "I need to have something besides a husband and children to devote myself to ... I want to go on living after my death" shows her maturity beyond her age.

Her diaries are a testimony to the persecution and genocide of Jews during Hitler's regime. The diary entries reveal her conflicting moods ranging from faith and optimism in the wake of adversity to despair and misfortune

dejection. They shed light on not just her personal issues like the problems of growing up but also on the political turbulence of the times in which she lived. She is candid in her discussion of her growth, puberty, the crushes she had and her disillusionment with her mother. After her death, prior to the publication of the diary, her father attempted to delete the portions in which she frankly disclosed matters of her sexuality and the conflict between her parents. Spending two years in a dingy apartment, her diaries discuss the trauma of confinement, her craving for freedom and her plans for life after the attainment of freedom. However she makes it clear that it is better to live such a vegetative life than get caught.

The plight of Jews in Nazi Germany was miserable. Denied citizenship, they were subjected to organized ostracism and seclusion. The Franks represent the millions of Jewish victims of Holocaust, who were persecuted and hounded out during the Second World War. The Frank family were a fortunate lot in that they were spared death and could go into ambush. When they realized that their lives were in danger, they fled into a hideout, the door of which was hidden by book shelves which Anne calls Secret Annex or Achterhuis in her diary.

During the German invasion of Netherlands in May 1940, the family was held up in Amsterdam, where they had moved to, in 1933. Anne's diary begins on 14 June 1942 and charts the life of the family after moving into the secret hiding place and thereafter. The family was finally caught on the tip off of an informer of whom history is still in the dark. They were

Signatures

arrested by the Gestapo on 4th August 1944 and transferred to Auschwitz. There Anne witnessed the gruesome sight of her own kin sent to gas chambers. Anne was spared and sent to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where she died. There are unconfirmed reports that she died probably of typhus at the age of 15. Her father was the only survivor. He was not aware of such a diary written by his daughter. Finally he had to fight many legal battles to restore authenticity to the diary which was accused of being counterfeit or forged. 2022

Her diary was a red and white checkered book that she received as a gift on her thirteenth birthday. The diary, addressed to Kitty, a fictional character in Cissy van Marxveldt's Joop der Heul, is a telling narrative on war, humanity and identity. It has influenced great personages like John F Kennedy, Nelson Mandela, Hillary Clinton and John Berryman. Nelson Mandela compared his own struggle against apartheid to Anne's struggle against Nazism. There are many adaptations of the diary. It was adapted into a play that won Pulitzer prize for Drama. There is also a 1959 movie titled "The Diary of Anne Frank." Secret Annexe, the place of her hiding is now a museum.

In Nazi Germany, anti-Jewish decrees ruled the day. Jews were supposed to wear a yellow star, they were banned from trams and forbidden to drive. They had to be indoors by eight o'clock and were barred from theatres, cinemas and other places of entertainment. They could shop only in Jewish shops and could study only in Jewish schools. This passage shows the perils of being a Jew in Nazi Germany.

Signatures

*Auto Frank - Father
Edith Frank - Mother
Maret Frank - Sister
Buddy Alias - Cousin
Kitty*

Text:

The Diary of a Young Girl

MONDAY, 22 MAY 1944

Dear Kitty,

... To our great horror and regret we hear that the attitude of a great many people towards us Jews has changed. We hear that there is anti-Semitism now in circles that never thought of it before. This news has affected us all very, very deeply. The cause of this hatred of the Jews is understandable, even human sometimes, but not good. The Christians blame the Jews for giving secrets away to the Germans, for betraying their helpers and for the fact that, through the Jews, a great many Christians have gone the way of so many others before them, and suffered terrible punishments and a dreadful fate.

This is all true, but one must look at all these things from both sides. Would Christians behave differently in our place? The Germans have a means of making people talk. Can a person, entirely at their mercy, whether Jew or Christian, always remain silent? Everyone knows that this is practically impossible. Why, then, should people demand the impossible of the Jews?

It's being murmured in underground circles that the German Jews who emigrated to Holland and who are now in Poland may not be allowed to return here; they once had the right of asylum in Holland, but when Hitler has gone they will have to go back to Germany again.

When one hears this, one naturally wonders why

we are carrying on with this long and difficult war. We always hear that we're all fighting together for freedom, truth, and right! Is discord going to show itself when we are still fighting, is the Jew once again worthless than another?

Oh, it is sad, very sad, that once more, for the umpteenth time, the old truth is confirmed: "What one Christian does is his own responsibility, what one Jew does is thrown back at all Jews."

Quite honestly, I can't understand that the Dutch who are such a good, honest, upright people, should judge us like this, we, the most oppressed, the unhappiest, perhaps the most pitiful of all peoples of the whole world.

I hope one thing only, and that is that this hatred of the Jews will be a passing thing, that the Dutch will show what they are after all, and that they will never totter and lose their sense of right. For anti-Semitism is unjust!

And if this terrible threat should actually come true, then the pitiful little collection of Jews that remain will have to leave Holland. We too shall have to move on again with our little bundles, and leave this beautiful country, which offered us such a warm welcome and which now turns its back on us.

I love Holland, I who having no native country, had hoped it might become my fatherland, and I still hope it will!

Yours Anne

Cerg

Netherlands
National Socialist movement

Signatures

THURSDAY, 25 MAY 1944,



Dear Kitty,

There's something fresh every day. This morning our vegetable man was picked up for having two Jews in his house. It's a great blow to us, not only that those Jews are balancing on the edge of an abyss, but it's terrible for the man himself.

The world has turned topsy-turvy, respectable people are being sent off to concentration camps, prisons and lonely cells, and the dregs that remain govern young and old, rich and poor. One person walks into the trap through the black market, a second through helping the Jews or other people who've had to go "underground"; anyone who isn't a member of the NSB doesn't know what may happen to him from one day to another.

The man is a great loss to us too. The girls can't and aren't allowed to haul along our share of potatoes, so the only thing to do is to eat less. I will tell you how we shall do that; it's certainly not going to make things any pleasanter. Mummy says we shall cut out breakfast altogether, have porridge and bread for lunch, and for supper fried potatoes and possibly once or twice per week vegetable or lettuce, nothing more. We're going to be hungry, but anything is better than being discovered.

Yours Anne

Signatures

Glossary:

Anti-Semitism: hatred of Jews

Discord: disagreement

Umpteen: many

Totter: to walk or move unsteadily

Abyss: a very deep and wide space or hole that seems to have no bottom.

topsy-turvy: in a state of great confusion

dregs: the last parts of something

haul : to pull with great effort

Gestapo: abbreviation of *Geheime Staatspolizei* (Secret State Police) the German state secret police during the Nazi regime, organized in 1933 and notorious for its brutal methods and operations.

Exercises:

I. Answer the following questions in one word or a phrase:

1. Which country does Anne Frank consider her fatherland?
2. Who are the Gestapo?
3. What is Anne's sister's name?
 - a. Mary
 - b. Marylyn
 - c. Margot
 - d. Meg

II. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences:

1. What are the ostensible reasons for the Nazi hatred towards Jews?
2. What is Anne Frank's only hope?
3. Why was the vegetable man picked?
4. Why did Anne's father try to delete portions of her diary?
5. What is the Secret Annexe?
6. Why does Anne fear that the Jews might be bundled out of Holland?

III. Answer the following questions in a paragraph:

1. How does the vegetable man's arrest affect Anne and her family?
2. How were the Jews stereotyped by the German society?
3. "What one Christian does is his own responsibility, what one Jew does is thrown back at all Jews." Explain.

IV. Attempt an essay on the following questions:

1. How does Anne bring out the angst of not having a land of their own, in her diaries?
2. What were the atrocities committed against the Jews in Nazi Germany?

Activity:

1. Through the diary entries, we have seen the persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany. Discuss the atrocities committed by the Jews of Israel against the Palestinians. Discuss the concept of Zionism.

Signatures

2. In the Diary, Anne problematizes the issue of being a stranger to her own motherland only because of her identity as a Jew. Bring out instances where human beings are being strangers to their own mother land.

Exercises

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE AGED 13^{3/4}.

Sue Townsend

Introduction:

Sue Townsend was born in 1946 at Leicester. Life was never a bed of roses for her. Her marital life was tumultuous and it ended in a divorce. At the time of her divorce, she was only 23 years old and had three children. Since then she tried a variety of odd jobs like working as a factory owner, shop assistant, receptionist and petrol station attendant in order to provide for herself and her kids. Later she married Colin Broadway who encouraged her to join a writer's group at the Phoenix theatre, Leicester.

She is best known for her Adrian Mole books, that include a series of nine books that were diary entries of a teenage boy named Adrian Mole. The nine books were *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13^{3/4}* (1982), *The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole* (1984), *The True Confessions of Adrian Albert Mole* (1989), *Adrian Mole and the Small Amphibians* (1991), *Adrian Mole: The Wilderness Years* (1993), *Adrian Mole: The Cappuccino Years* (1999), *Adrian Mole and the Weapons of Mass Destruction* (2004), *The Lost Diaries of Adrian Mole, 1999–2001* (2008)

Signatures

and *Adrian Mole: The Prostrate Years* (2009). Of all the Mole books, the one that Townsend likes the most is *The Prostrate Years*, because she has taken immense effort to retain the comic spirit amidst her declining health. When she was asked why Adrian Mole was not fictionalized as a girl, she replied "... girls are more sociable, they talk to each other about their emotional lives; boys don't."

The first of the series *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 3/4* was published in 1982. Its sequel *The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole* established her as a bestselling novelist. Written in a comic vein, Adrian Mole books are a hilarious account of various episodes in the life of Adrian Mole. She researched the world of teenagers and attended youth clubs in order to gain a firsthand experience with teenagers. Adrian Mole books sold over 20 million copies and were translated into 30 languages. J K Rowling has famously commented that the book "gave me so many laughs."

The initial name of Adrian was Nigel Mole. It was changed to Adrian due to the similarity it bore with Nigel Molesworth, a fictional character, who was the supposed author of a series of books (actually written by Geoffrey Willams), with cartoon illustrations by Ronald Searle.

The novels were adapted for radio, television and theatre. *The Secret Diary of Adrian mole aged 13 3/4: The Play* and *The Queen and I: a Play with Songs* are theatrical adaptations of her works, performed by the Out of Joint Touring Company at the Vaudeville Theatre.

Signatures

She has also written works of non-fiction and plays. *Mr. Bevan's Dream: Why Britain Needs Its Welfare State* is her work of non-fiction. Her first play *Womberang*, set in the waiting room of a gynaecology department, won the Thames Television Playwright Award. Since then she has written many plays. Her important plays are *The Great Celestial Cow* (1984), *Ten Tiny Fingers, Nine Tiny Toes* (1990), *You, Me and Wii* (2010), *Groping for Words* (1983) and *Ear, Nose and Throat* (1988).

She has received many awards and recognitions. She has received an honorary M.A. from Leicester University and in 2008 she was made a Distinguished Honorary Fellow. She is an Honorary Doctor of Letters at Loughborough University and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. She is also the recipient of the James Joyce Award of the Literary and Historical Society of University College, Dublin, and the Frink Award at the Women of the Year Awards. In 2009, she was given the Honorary Freedom of Leicester. She died in 2014 following a stroke.

David Williams who wrote the foreword to *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 3/4* calls the book "a genuine phenomenon." The fictional account is rendered so realistically that the reader feels that it is not merely a series of jokes but episodes from someone's real life. Adrian's parents who struggle with an unhappy marriage, his grouchy grandma, his mother's creepy lover Mr. Lucas, his intellectually superior girlfriend Pandora and the invalid Bert Baxter whom Mole takes care of all come alive out of the pages of the novel. Here are a few humorous snippets from

Signatures

the novel that will be an amusing read. They show the teenager's anxiety towards the spots on his face, his self pretensions on being an intellectual, his concern with his health, his crush towards Pandora and the effect of his parents' quarrels on him.

Text:

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13^{3/4}

Wednesday January 14th

Joined the library. Got Care of the Skin, Origin of Species, and a book by a woman my mother is always going on about. It is called Pride and Prejudice, by a woman called Jane Austen. I could tell the librarian was impressed. Perhaps she is an intellectual like me. She didn't look at my spot, so perhaps it is getting smaller. About time! ...

None of the teachers at school have noticed that I am an intellectual. They will be sorry when I am famous. There is a new girl in our class. She sits next to me in Geography. She is all right. Her name is Pandora, but she likes being called 'Box.' Don't ask me why. I might fall in love with her. It's time I fell in love, after all I am 13^{3/4} years old.

Saturday January 17th

... Dr. Taylor must be one of those overworked GPs you are always reading about. He didn't examine the spot, he just said I mustn't worry and was everything all right at home. I told him about my bad home life and my poor diet, but he said I was well

General Physician

Signatures

nourished and to go home and count my blessings. So much for the National Health Service.

Tuesday January 20th

Full Moon

My mother is looking for a job!

Now I could end up a delinquent roaming the streets and all that. And what will I do during the holidays? I expect I will have to sit in a launderette all day to keep warm. I will be a latchkey kid, whatever that is. And who will look after the dog? And what will I have to eat all day? I will be forced to eat crisps and sweets until my skin is ruined and my teeth fall out. I think my mother is being very selfish. She won't be any good in a job anyway. She isn't even bright and she drinks too much at Christmas...

Thursday January 22nd

... My mother has got an interview for a job. She is practising her typing and not doing any cooking. So what will it be like if she gets the job? My father should put his foot down before we are a broken home.

Sunday January 25th

Third after Epiphany

10 a.m. I am ill with all the worry, too weak to write much. Nobody has noticed I haven't eaten any breakfast

2 p.m. Had two junior aspirins at midday and rallied a bit. Perhaps when I am famous and my diary is discovered, people will understand the torment of

Signatures

being a 13^{3/4}-year-old undiscovered intellectual.

6 p.m. Pandora! My lost love! ...

8 p.m. Pandora! Pandora! Pandora ...

Midnight. Had a crab-paste sandwich and a satsuma (for the good of my skin)...

Saturday February 7th

My mother and father have been shouting at each other non-stop for hours. It started because of the bacon down the side of the fridge and carried on into how much my father's car is costing to repair. I went up to my room and put my Abba records on. My father had the nerve to crash my door open and ask me to turn the volume down. I did. When he got downstairs I turned it up again.

Nobody cooked any dinner so I went to the Chinese chip shop and bought a carton of chips and a sachet of soy sauce...

Monday March 2nd

My mother has just come into my room and said she had something awful to tell me. I sat up in bed and put a dead serious expression on my face just in case she'd got six months to live or she'd been caught shoplifting or something. She fiddled with the curtains, dropped cigarette ash over my Concorde model and started mumbling on about 'adult relationships' and 'life being complicated' and how she must 'find herself'. She said she was fond of me. Fond!!! And would hate to hurt me. And then she said that for some women marriage was like being in prison. Then she went out.

Signatures

Marriage is nothing like being in prison! Women are let out every day to go to the shops and stuff, and quite a lot go to work. I think my mother is being a bit melodramatic.

Sunday March 8th

First in Lent

My mother has gone to a woman's workshop on assertiveness training. Men aren't allowed. I asked my father what 'assertiveness training' is. He said 'God knows, but whatever it is, it's bad news for me.'

We had boil-in-the-bag cod in butter sauce and oven-cooked chips for Sunday dinner, followed by tinned peaches and Dream-topping. My father opened a bottle of white wine and let me have some. I don't know much about wine, but it seemed a pleasant enough vintage. We watched a film on television, then my mother came home and started bossing us around. She said, 'The worm has turned', and 'Things are going to be different around here,' and things like that. Then she went into the kitchen and started making a chart dividing all the housework into three. I pointed out to her that I already had a paper to do, an old age pensioner to look after and a dog to feed, as well as my school work, but she didn't listen, she put the chart on the wall and said 'We start tomorrow.'

Monday March 9th

Commonwealth Day

Cleaned toilet, washed basin and bath before doing my paper round. Came home, made breakfast, put washing in machine, went to school. Gave Barry

Signatures

Kent his menaces money, went to Bert Baxter's, waited for social worker who didn't come, had school dinner. Had domestic Science - made apple crumble. Came home. Vacuumed hall, lounge, and breakfast room. Peeled potatoes, chopped up cabbage, cut finger, rinsed blood off cabbage. Put chops under grill, looked in cookery book for a recipe for gravy. Made gravy, Strained lumps out with a colander. Set table, served dinner, washed up. Put burnt saucepans in to soak. Got washing out of machine; everything blue including white underwear and handkerchiefs hung washing on clothes-horse. Fed dog. Ironed PE kit, cleaned shoes. Did homework. Took dog for a walk, had bath. Cleaned bath. Made three cups of tea. Washed cups up. Went to bed. Just my luck to have an assertive mother!

Wednesday March 18th

My mother and father are both speaking to solicitors. I expect they are fighting over who gets custody of me. I will be a tug-of-love child, and my picture will be in the newspapers. I hope my spots clear up before then.

Monday September 14th

Full Moon

... School dinners are complete crap now. Gravy seems to have phased out along with custard and hot puddings. A typical menu is: hamburger, baked beans, chips, carton of yoghurt, or a doughnut. It's not enough to build healthy bone and sinew. I am considering about making a protest to Mrs Thatcher. It won't be our fault if we grow up apathetic and lacking in moral

Signatures

fibre. Perhaps Mrs. Thatcher wants us to be too weak to demonstrate in the years to come.

Friday November 13th

Pandora and I had a frank talk about our relationship tonight. She doesn't want to marry me in two year's time!

She wants to have a career instead!

Naturally I am devastated by this blow. I told her I wouldn't mind her having a little job in a cake shop or something after our wedding, but she said she intended to go to university and that the only time she would enter a cake shop would be to buy a large crusty.

Harsh words were exchanged between us. (Hers were harsher than mine.)

Sunday January 10th

First after Epiphany

I can't understand why my father looks so old at forty-one compared to President Reagan at seventy. My father has no work or worries yet he looks dead haggard. Poor President Reagan has to carry the world's safety on his shoulders yet he is always smiling and looking cheerful. It doesn't make sense.

Glossary:

Delinquent: showing a tendency to commit crimes

Launderette: a place where you can wash and dry your clothes in machines that you operate

Latchkey: a key for the front or the outer door by a house

Signatures

Epiphany: a moment of sudden and great revelation or realization.

Satsuma: a type of small orange without seeds and with loose skin that comes off easily

Shoplifting: stealing goods from a shop

Solicitor: a lawyer who prepares legal documents and advises people on legal matters

Colander: a metal or plastic bowl with a lot of holes in it used for draining water from vegetables etc after washing or cooking

Fiddle: to keep touching or moving something with your hands, especially when you are bored or nervous

Apathetic: showing no interest or enthusiasm

Exercises:

II. Answer the following questions:

1. Which is the book that Adrian Mole did **not** take from the library?
 - a. Sense and Sensibility
 - b. Pride and Prejudice
 - c. Origin of Species
 - d. Care of the Skin
2. Who is the doctor whom Mole consults for his skin?
 - a. Dr. Arthur
 - b. Dr. Taylor
 - c. Dr. Richard
 - d. Dr. Sam
3. Who was the Prime Minister of Britain while Mole was writing the diaries?

Signatures

4. What is the political reason for the adolescents being given unwholesome food at schools, according to Mole?

5. Name Adrian Mole's girlfriend.

II. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences:

1. How does Mole compare his father to President Reagan?
2. Why is Mole anxious about his mother taking up a profession?
3. What is the mother's attitude to marriage?
4. What is the ideal menu that should be given to adolescents, according to Mole?
5. What was Dr. Taylor's response to Mole's complaint of being undernourished?
6. Explain the expression 'latchkey kid.'
7. What was Mole's response to his mother's claim that marriage is like being in prison?
8. What was the profession suggested by Adrian Mole to her girl friend? What was her reaction on his suggestion?
9. Why does Adrian criticize his school teachers?
10. What was Adrian's father's response, when he asked his father about 'assertive training'?

V. Answer the following questions in a paragraph:

1. Discuss the anxieties of teenage that the diaries portray.

Signatures

2. Discuss the relationship between Mole's parents.
3. Discuss the outcome of the mother's 'assertiveness' training.
4. Mole's obsession with his skin.

VI. Attempt an essay on the following questions:

1. Bring out the humour in Adrian Mole's diaries.
2. Imagine you are Adrian Mole. Write a diary entry describing your days at school.

Activity:

1. Write a fictional diary of a teenage girl. Think of how different it would be from Adrian Mole's diaries.

LETTERS FROM THE MOTHERS OF NENJAMPARAMBU TO THE SUPREME COURT

M.A. Rahman

Introduction:

M.A. Rahman, a retired professor, activist, critic and film maker, has been at the forefront of the eco-movement against endosulfan. He is the recipient of Odakkuzhal Award, an Indian literary award instituted to honour writers for a particular outstanding work in Malayalam language. The work that merited this honour was *Oro Jeevanum Vilappettathanu*. His documentary *Basheer, the Man* won the National award for the best biographical documentary in 1988. Other renowned documentaries are *Kumaranellurile Kulangal* and *A Paradise for the Dying*. His films have been screened at international Film Festivals at London, Paris, Taiwan, Estonia and Houston. His major works are *Basheer Kalam Desam* and *Basheer Bhoopadangal*.

Letters from Mothers is a telling narrative on the gruesome effects of the use of endosulfan in Kasargod, a pesticide notorious for its acute toxicity, potential for bioaccumulation and endocrine disrupter. It has been classified as a highly hazardous chemical by the

Signatures

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the European Union as a Persistent Toxic Substance by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), as a Category II Moderately Hazardous Chemical by the World Health Organization (WHO) and an Extremely Hazardous chemical by the Industrial Toxicological Research Centre (ITRC) in India. It has been banned globally in 80 countries. At the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on 30 April 2012, 127 countries agreed on a worldwide ban on endosulfan, to which India objected since the ban would adversely affect the agricultural industry. Finally it was agreed to ban the pesticide in a phased manner, giving government appointed scientists time to develop an alternative pest control. The area where Endosulfan was indiscriminately sprayed was a hilly area where the most marginalized sections of society live. Rooting out this menace was almost impossible since there was intense lobbying among the various departments of the government and the scientists. Despite the fact that generations of the populace began to be afflicted with terminal diseases and congenital anomalies, it was difficult even to win public sympathy because these are the lives of humans at the lowest strata of society and that the powerful were complicit in this inhuman game. This letter invites attention to the trauma suffered by the women folk due to endosulfan. Drafted by M. A. Rahman in Malayalam, who lived with these victims and personally encountered their travails, translated by B.V. Lasitha and signed by ten mothers in Karadukka Panchayat, Kasargod, it is a poignant

Signatures

expression of the angst of the victims and their struggle for a collective cause. The letter's paramount significance lies in the fact that it was instrumental in bringing out the Supreme Court verdict that favoured the victims. Initially the case was filed in the Supreme Court by the youth organization of a leading political party of Kerala. When this letter was submitted to the Supreme Court along with the shocking photographs of the victims, the court directed that it be submitted as a writ petition. The same was submitted along with a writ petition by Vandana Siva. The Supreme Court verdict, delivered on 17.1. 2017, announced a compensation of Rs. 5 lakh for each afflicted family as interim relief which had to be disbursed within five months of the verdict. The disbursal is under process. The full scale compensation package will be delivered by the Compensation Tribunal in due course.

Text:

Letters from Mothers

This affidavit is being submitted on behalf of the tens of thousands of victims who are in the throes of infernal misery due to the deadly diseases sown by the poison fiend, Endosulfan, the more than thousands of souls who have met with untimely deaths in the past two decades, and the ill-fated, wretched, hapless and chronically ill half-children who are dying day by day, trapped between life and death. Sir, we invite the attention of the Supreme Court to a news item which appeared in the Mathrubhumi daily of May 9th, 2011 with the headline, "New born infant of Endosulfan afflicted family dies." The child who died was born to

Signatures

Mamtha and Narayanan of Adhur, Kaithode. The child who was premature died within hours of birth at Kasargod General Hospital. He did not have eyes. The second son of the couple, nine year old Naveen, is included in the list of Endosulfan victims. Their second son, Nagesh (4 years) is also stricken. In her third delivery Mamtha gave birth to twins. However both children died. A photograph of the corpse of the eyeless child is enclosed along with this letter. Those eyes are not actually closed. They were gouged out by Endosulfan. The photograph which records this is the sole evidence that another victim has vanished from earth in Nenjamparambu. Though forbidden to do so by the authorities of Kasargod General Hospital, a journalist Shafi Theruvath, photographed the child when his body was being shifted from the mortuary. We express our gratitude to him. This infant is yet to find a place in the Government list of people dead due to Endosulfan. The dead twins delivered by the same mother two years ago also have not found a place in the list. Naveen who managed to survive is crippled in both legs. He is blind too. The pension of Rs 2000 that Naveen gets every month is the only evidence that the family has been victimized by Endosulfan. The Government has washed its hands off this family, leaving all the rest to the account book of death. That mother laments: "The Government took away the eyes of my child. They inflated his head and enlarged his neck with poison. The skin on his body has been peeled away by Endosulfan poison. I will bear no more children."

Signatures

This statement is echoed by all the mothers of Nenjamparambu. As soon as they conceive, these mothers, consumed by fear and anxiety, approach black magicians, djinns and finally doctors. This is all they want to know: "Will my baby have a swollen head?" Today they do not fear abortions. On the contrary they fear conception. Since the MTP act is in force, this legal benefit is a great relief to these mothers. Which mother would like to deliver a limbless torso in place of a baby? May we first of all inform the Supreme Court that many such mothers lament their fates in Kaithodu valley of Nenjamparambu.

Endosulfan spraying was stopped in 2000. In spite of this, why is it that the villages lying below Nenjamparambu in Karadukka Panchayat, malformed children continue to be born even after ten years? Had our health department been vigilant, the medical history of this family with multiple deaths and diseases could have been the subject of at least a case study. Such a study would have imparted scientific knowledge about the causes of death by poisoning in this area.

In spite of there being a separate ward in Kasargod General Hospital for Endosulfan victims, the abnormality of such deaths has never been studied. In an issue where the complicity of the Government is proven beyond doubt, the criminal negligence of the Health Ministry causes the children of an entire area to be born without organs and limbs. It is our apprehension about this that we wish to place before the seat of justice.

In 2000, when the court temporarily banned

Endosulfan, the excess pesticide which remained in the Plantation Corporation godowns of Kasargod were not kept aside with adequate security measures or rendered ineffective. Instead, in some places it was buried in the earth, a deliberate concealment of material facts which shocks us. In 2002, we went to Nenjamparambu to shoot the documentary *A Paradise for the Dying*. (This hill is called Minji Padave in Kannada). Here we met Achuthan Maniyani, a Plantation labourer who mixed Endosulfan for ten years and has lost his health completely. His revelations may be summarized thus: "When Endosulfan was banned, the excess pesticide which remained was buried in Nenjamparambu. A labourer named Subbaiah Maniyani buried it. He is dead now."

When we were about to approach the dead Subbaiah Maniyani's house with our filming equipment, the plantation labourers who were clearing the land stopped us. They even threatened to chop off our legs if we ventured even a step ahead. All these scenes are part of the visuals of that documentary. Achuthan Maniyani's revelation is proof that Endosulfan was buried in Nenjamparambu. This explains why such malformed children are born here even after aerial spraying of Endosulfan was stopped: the residue of Endosulfan. What else?

The vast Nenjamparambu lies at the heart of Minjipadavu mountain in Adhur. At the top of the hill, the full breast of the earth. Here lies Kerala Plantation Corporation's Minji Padavu estate (Adhur estate). Standing here one can see river Payaswini flowing between the laterite hills to the North East and the

dense forests of the valleys. To enter Nenjamparambu one has to wait at the closed checkpost for hours at length. More than five hundred families live on the crest of the hill and the small villages in the valley.

The huge cement tank in which Endosulfan was prepared is situated in Nenjamparambu. This is also a landing place for helicopters. Around this the pure water veins of Nenjamparambu which flow clearly between the crevices of rocks. These founts of water trickle in streams to the villages in the valley. They overflow over the top soil and the roads. Not far from here are the two manmade tunnels in Nenjamparambu (a tunnel is called 'surangam' in Kannada; in Malayalam it is 'thurangam'). Enclosed by stone steps, overlaid with leaves and foliage, embedded with the roots of huge trees, form these fountains of water, streams flow to Bellur village in the left (this village also teems with Endosulfan victims) and on the right towards Aadoor village which includes Kaithodu. Organic farmers laid out this natural pond in order to preserve the virginity of the soil. The water that accumulates in these tunnels quenches the thirst of the villages in the valley during the scorching summer. The villagers testify that the remaining Endosulfan was buried somewhere in the depths of the streams following between the tanks and the underground tunnels.

Very long ago, one of the streams of this hill was diverted to a village in the valley through the exertions of a hardworking organic farmer, Mammadcha who lived on the side of the hill and dug tunnels. Armed with only a spade, he diverted the stream to the village.

Signatures

down below. Thus this village acquired the name of Kaithodu (a stream made by one's own hand). Mammadcha's daughter Hajira lives on the banks of this stream. Hajira's children were born Endosulfan victims. One of them is a child with an abnormally enlarged head, Umaibath Shariya. The stream which her father had transformed into a blessing for the village has now entered her homestead strewing curses. The Endosulfan buried high above has flowed downstream. Today Kaithodu village teems with such children. Umaibath Shariya who endured tortuous pain for five years passed away in July 2012.

It was not the ignorance of any agricultural scientist which gave rise to their plight. On the contrary, it is the result of the fatal, unscrupulous greed and terror-spewing activity of the government which misinterprets scientific knowledge and sells itself out into the market. The Plantation Corporation, the Agricultural Scientists, the Central Agricultural Department and the manufacturers of Endosulfan cannot evade the responsibility for this. Directed by the Supreme Court, the Community Health Department of Calicut Medical College (Dr. C Raveendran, Dr. Prabhakaran, Dr. Thomas Beena, Dr. E. Jayakrishnana) conducted an Epidemiology study for ICMR. They discovered high levels of Endosulfan in blood samples from Nenjamparambu.

Apart from this, the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) in its study conducted to measure Endosulfan levels in the water and soil in the area, discovered Endosulfan particles in Nenjamparambu. The lifespan of Alpha

Signatures

Endosulfan is a mere 88 days. In the case of Beta Endosulfan it is 40 days. The presence of Endosulfan in the soil even after ten years after aerial spraying was stopped shocked the scientists. Kamalaksha Kokkal, Deputy Director of KSCSTE who conducted the study says: since it remains in the soil of Nenjamparambu even after so much time has elapsed, there is every possibility of it having contaminated the food chain. From plants, it must have entered vegetables and fruits, then animals, then the human body and wreaked havoc. This is to be further studied. If this observation is placed alongside the 112 PPB, the 172 PPB discovered in the blood samples from Nenjamparambu, as disclosed in the study conducted by Calicut Medical College, it will be revealed that the countless deformed half children who lead a death in life are a creation of Endosulfan.

The Central Agricultural Department, which is manifesting undue haste to export Endosulfan and which has not evinced half as much urgency in resisting this grotesque life destructive phenomenon, is actually toying with people's lives.

The mercenary profiteers amongst the academic community of the Agricultural Scientists who are ignorant about the geography or culture of Kasargod or the inherent contradictions embedded in the fact that the Plantation Corporation is spread over 11 panchayats, are trying to deprive the victims of even the basic humanitarian consideration they deserve. They countered the studies conducted by Sunita Narayan of CSE in 2000 and Dr. Habibullah Sayeed of NIOH in 2012 in the same manner. Now that the

Signatures

Calicut Medical College study which says Endosulfan is the root cause of all the severe health problems has found the light of day, the manufacturers of the pesticide have issued notice against the doctors in the area. The NIOH study of 2002 has unequivocally proved that these diseases are caused by Endosulfan. This 92 page report was suppressed when the Central Agricultural Department hastily furnished a report, exonerating the Plantation Corporation of all culpability and submitted it to the Supreme Court. Thus they steered clear of trouble.

Had the Government taken the initiative to conduct autopsy of the victims who are dying day by day and undertaken legal measures to ascertain the levels of Endosulfan in the fat accumulated in the internal organs of the victims, matters would have become easier and also more scientific.

We are also trying to come to terms with another shocking contradiction: the Central University was allotted 300 acres of land in Periyé by the government of Kerala. The land is acceptable to the University only if it is proved to be uncontaminated by Endosulfan! The pesticide issue is impacting the rights of civil society.

Now the villages of Kasargod have become the setting for the macabre dance of death. On the one hand there is the dread and trepidation about the poison deposits in Nenjamparambu; on the other, the everyday dance of death. With the firm conviction that these reasons may suffice for Endosulfan to be banned, we submit before the Supreme Court, this affidavit on behalf of the infants of Nenjamparambu.

Glossary:

Infernal: hellish

Fiend: an evil spirit or demon

Gouged out: cut or force something out roughly or brutally.

Crippled: disabled

Djinns: (in Arabian and Muslim mythology) an intelligent spirit of lower rank than the angels, able to appear in human and animal forms and to possess humans.

MTP: Medical Termination of Pregnancy

Complicity: the fact or condition of being involved with others in an activity that is unlawful or morally wrong.

Unscrupulous: having or showing no moral principles; not honest or fair.

Epidemiology: the branch of medicine which deals with the incidence, distribution, and possible control of diseases and other factors relating to health.

Grotesque: incongruous or inappropriate

Mercenary: primarily concerned with making money at the expense of ethics.

NIOH: National Institute of Occupational Health, a premier institute, under the aegis of the Indian Council of Medical Research under the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India.

Macabre: disturbing because concerned with or causing a fear of death.

Trepidation: a feeling of fear or anxiety about something that may happen.

Exercises:

I. Answer the following questions in one word or a phrase:

1. Which is the documentary that depicts the endosulfan issue at Nenjamparambu?
 - a. A Paradise for the Dying
 - b. The Killer Fiend
 - c. Heaven on Earth
 - d. The Nenjamparambu Debacle
2. MTP means:
3. _____ is the journalist who photographed the corpse of the eyeless child.
4. Nenjamparambu lies at the heart of _____ mountain in Adhur.
5. The lifespan of alpha endosulfan is _____ days.

II. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences:

1. What happened to Subbaiah Maniyani who was entrusted with the task of burying endosulfan?
2. Who are referred to as 'mercenary profiteers'?
3. What is the figure of speech in 'macabre dance of death'?
4. Why do the women fear conception to abortion?
5. What was the shocking news item that appeared in the Mathrubhumi daily of May 9, 2011?
6. How did the village acquire the name of Kaithodu?

Signatures

7. How did the blessed stream become a curse for the villagers?

III. Answer the following questions in a paragraph:

1. How is the government complicit in the abuse of endosulfan?
2. How did endosulfan pollute the water bodies?
3. The letter makes a serious allegation that there has been a concerted effort from various quarters to resist attacks on endosulfan. Who are the ones who were complicit in this crime against humanity?
4. How did endosulfan adversely affect the food chain?
5. "Endosulfan spraying was stopped in 2000. In spite of this ... malformed children continue to be born." Discuss the gravity of this statement.
6. Why did the manufacturers of endosulfan issue notice against the doctors?

IV. Attempt an essay on the following questions:

1. Discuss the impact of this letter on the crusade against endosulfan.
2. Discuss the clout of concerted lobbying that precluded any possible attack against endosulfan.
3. How does the Endosulfan debacle become one of the worst human rights violations in history?

Activity:

Gwalior Rayons factory that functioned at

Signatures

Mavoor, Calicut was closed down as a result of intense protests and agitations from the locals. The factory had polluted the Chaliyar and had caused an increasing incidence of cancer and skin ailments. K.A. Rahman was one of the leaders of the agitation who himself died of cancer. Imagine that you are one of the agitators. Write a collective letter to the local authorities detailing your travails.

Letter to Adolf Hitler

M.K. Gandhi

Introduction:

Gandhi and Adolf Hitler were contemporaries who represent the opposite extremes of human character. Gandhi is considered the paragon of patience and sacrifice while Hitler is synonymous with brutality and violence. Both of them were very powerful leaders of their times who adopted diametrically opposed strategies for resistance and consolidation of power. Gandhi's policy of non-violent struggle was unique as well as immensely effective in resisting the enemies. He won the hearts of his followers through precept and practice. Hitler was more of a disciplinarian who imposed authority on his men. Gandhi believed in egalitarianism while Hitler believed in well defined hierarchies. *distribution of power*

Gandhi's non-violent method of resistance won international attention, earning him the title Mahatma which in Sanskrit means great soul. The epithet was first applied to him in 1914 in South Africa. After studying law in London, he went to practise law in South Africa while he was 23. His stint as a lawyer in South Africa informed his ethical and political views. Gandhi first employed nonviolent civil disobedience

Signatures

while in South Africa, during the South African Indian community's struggle for civil rights in the wake of discrimination from the Whites. Influenced by Tolstoy he established an ideal community called 'Tolstoy Farm' near Johannesburg in 1910 where he developed his policy of peaceful struggle. After his return to India in 1915, he organised peasants, farmers, and urban labourers to protest against excessive land-tax and discrimination. Assuming leadership of the Indian National Congress in 1921, Gandhi led nationwide campaigns for various social causes and for achieving *Swaraj* or self-rule. He was assassinated by Nathuram Godse, a religious fanatic on 30th October 1948.

Hitler was the Chancellor of Germany from 1933 to 1945. He initiated the Second World war in Europe with the invasion of Poland in September 1939. His autobiography *Mein Kamph* (meaning my struggle) promoted pan Germanism, anti-semitism and anti-communism. He is notorious for the Holocaust which is considered one of the greatest atrocities committed against humanity. At least 5.5 million Jews were killed in the name of ethnic cleansing. The inhumanity unleashed in the gas chambers (which were euphemistically called disinfection areas), was unimaginable. He argued for racial purity and believed that the impure races had to be annihilated. He was heavily influenced by Charles Darwin and Herbert Spenser. He applied their theories of natural selection and survival of the fittest systematically to his project of ethnic cleansing. He was a powerful speaker who realized the role of rituals and spectacle in mass

mobilization. The Red banners with the swastika, the Nazi salute and the ritualized rounds of applause after his speeches were all part of this spectacle of power. Finally, he killed himself to avoid capture by the Soviets.

This letter assumes significance in contemporary times when violence against humanity continues in disguised and sanitized forms. There is growing mistrust between nations and communities on an unprecedented scale globally. Nations and their leaders are becoming increasingly intolerant of difference. Even in Gandhi's own country one can be lynched for being a Dalit or for consuming beef. This short and crisp letter which Gandhi wrote to Hitler raises his genuine concerns for the sake of humanity. The letter, written during the Second World War after Germany's occupation of Czechoslovakia, is a plea to stop the war. Gandhi mentions his method of non-violence which he strongly believes is the best form of resistance. He wrote two letters to Hitler both of which were not delivered to him as they were intercepted by the British government. The first letter was written prior to Hitler's invasion of Poland which marks the beginning of the Second World War. In that letter, Gandhi places the onus on Hitler to prevent a massive war that will "reduce humanity to a savage state." He urges Hitler to take recourse to an international tribunal for an amicable settlement of the issues at stake.

Text:

Letter to Adolf Hitler

As at Wardha,

December 24, 1940

Dear Friend,

That I address you as a friend is no formality. I own no foes. My business in life has been for the past 33 years to enlist the friendship of the whole of humanity by befriending mankind, irrespective of race, colour or creed. I hope you will have the time and desire to know how a good portion of humanity who view living under the influence of that doctrine of universal friendship view your action. We have no doubt about your bravery or devotion to your fatherland, nor do we believe that you are the monster described by your opponents. But your own writings and pronouncements and those of your friends and admirers leave no room for doubt that many of your acts are monstrous and unbecoming of human dignity, especially in the estimation of men like me who believe in universal friendliness. Such are your humiliation of Czechoslovakia, the rape of Poland and the swallowing of Denmark. I am aware that your view of life regards such spoliations as virtuous acts. But we have been taught from childhood to regard them as acts degrading humanity. Hence we cannot possibly wish success to your arms. But ours is a unique position. We resist British Imperialism no less than Nazism. If there is a difference, it is in degree. One-fifth of the human race has been brought under the British heel

Signatures

by means that will not bear scrutiny. Our resistance to it does not mean harm to the British people. We seek to convert them, not to defeat them on the battle-field. Ours is an unarmed revolt against the British rule. But whether we convert them or not, we are determined to make their rule impossible by non-violent non-co-operation. It is a method in its nature indefensible. It is based on the knowledge that no spoliator can compass his end without a certain degree of co-operation, willing or compulsory, of the victim. Our rulers may have our land and bodies but not our souls. They can have the former only by complete destruction of every Indian—man, woman and child. That all may not rise to that degree of heroism and that a fair amount of frightfulness can bend the back of revolt is true but the argument would be beside the point. For, if a fair number of men and women be found in India who would be prepared without any ill will against the spoliators to lay down their lives rather than bend the knee to them, they would have shown the way to freedom from the tyranny of violence. I ask you to believe me when I say that you will find an unexpected number of such men and women in India. They have been having that training for the past 20 years.

We have been trying for the past half a century to throw off the British rule. The movement of independence has been never so strong as now. The most powerful political organization, I mean the Indian National Congress, is trying to achieve this end. We have attained a very fair measure of success through non-violent effort. We were groping for the right

Signatures

means to combat the most organized violence in the world which the British power represents. You have challenged it. It remains to be seen which is the better organized, the German or the British. We know what the British heel means for us and the non-European races of the world. But we would never wish to end the British rule with German aid. We have found in non-violence a force which, if organized, can without doubt match itself against a combination of all the most violent forces in the world. In non-violent technique, as I have said, there is no such thing as defeat. It is all 'do or die' without killing or hurting. It can be used practically without money and obviously without the aid of science of destruction which you have brought to such perfection. It is a marvel to me that you do not see that it is nobody's monopoly. If not the British, some other power will certainly improve upon your method and beat you with your own weapon. You are leaving no legacy to your people of which they would feel proud. They cannot take pride in a recital of cruel deed, however skilfully planned. I, therefore, appeal to you in the name of humanity to stop the war. You will lose nothing by referring all the matters of dispute between you and Great Britain to an international tribunal of your joint choice. If you attain success in the war, it will not prove that you were in the right. It will only prove that your power of destruction was greater. Whereas an award by an impartial tribunal will show as far as it is humanly possible which party was in the right. You know that not long ago I made an appeal to every Briton to accept my method of non-violent resistance. I did it because the British know

Signatures.

me as a friend though a rebel. I am a stranger to you and your people. I have not the courage to make you the appeal I made to every Briton. Not that it would not apply to you with the same force as to the British. But my present proposal is much simple because much more practical and familiar. During this season when the hearts of the peoples of Europe yearn for peace, we have suspended even our own peaceful struggle. Is it too much to ask you to make an effort for peace during a time which may mean nothing to you personally but which must mean much to the millions of Europeans whose dumb cry for peace I hear, for my ears are attended to hearing the dumb millions? I had intended to address a joint appeal to you and Signor Mussolini, whom I had the privilege of meeting when I was in Rome during my visit to England as a delegate to the Round Table Conference. I hope that he will take this as addressed to him also with the necessary changes.

I am,

Your sincere friend,

M. K. GANDHI

Glossary:

Spoliations: the destruction, alteration, or mutilation of evidence especially by a party for whom the evidence is damaging.

Legacy: inheritance

(S. n. J.)

Exercises:

I. Answer the following questions in one word or a phrase:

1. What suggestion does Gandhi make to end the clash with Britain?

- a. To refer to America
- b. To fight and win
- c. To refer to an international tribunal
- d. To launch a non-violent agitation

2. Non-violent cooperation is as a method in its nature _____

- a. Inviolable
- b. Indefensible
- c. Powerful
- d. Contradictory

3. This letter was written on _____.

II. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences:

1. Why does Gandhi address Hitler as friend?
2. How does Gandhi compare British Imperialism to Nazism?
3. "We seek to convert them, not to defeat them on the battle-field." What does Gandhi mean?
4. How does Gandhi warn Hitler?
5. "Ours is a unique position." Explain.

III. Answer the following questions in a paragraph:

1. How does this letter exude Gandhi's unflinching

Signatures

confidence in non-violent method of struggle?

2. How does the non-violent strategy view defeat?
3. Why is this letter addressed to both Hitler and Mussolini? Cite reasons.
4. Imagine you are Hitler. Write a reply to this letter justifying your ways.

IV. Attempt an essay on the following questions:

1. Discuss the relevance of Gandhi's letter as a historical document.
2. Discuss Gandhi's cosmopolitanism as evident in the letter.

Activity:

1. Write a letter to Aang San Suu Kii describing your apprehensions on the atrocities committed against the Rohingyas in Myanmar and their exodus to other parts of the world.

MODEL QUESTION PAPER
III SEMESTER B.A. / BSc. DEGREE
EXAMINATION
COMMON COURSE A05

Time: 3 hrs

Max marks: 80

Signatures

- B. Answer *all* the following questions in a word or a phrase
6. Endosulfan has been banned globally in _____ countries
 7. What is the silence that has to be broken in Miri Kitani's poem?
 8. To which concentration camp was Anne sent?
 9. Neruda compares words to a healing Stone called _____.
 10. What is the meaning of the Okanagan word that refers to relationships?
- II. Answer *any ten* of the following in one or two sentences (10x2=20)
11. What was the kind of notebook in which Anne wrote her diaries?
 12. Explain the expression 'latchkey kid'?
 13. What is the image of the desirable woman the Nellie Wong condemns?
 14. "I leave them in poem like stalactites". Explain briefly.
 15. How does the giant water bug attack the frog?
 16. Cite an instance of the horrifying physical torture of radiation.
 17. How do the Okanagans treat the body?
 18. What made Nellie Wong proud of herself and experience a sense of belonging?
 19. The mothers of Nenjamparamba feared conception to abortion. Why?
 20. Why does Pinter say that truth in drama is forever elusive?

Signatures

21. What, according to Chaplin, are the qualities without which life will be violent?

22. What did Lyudmilla name her baby and why?

III. Answer any four of the following questions in a paragraph (4x5=20)

23. Write a diary entry on an important moment of your life.

24. Discuss the contemporary relevance of Nenjamparambu letters?

25. What are the images of racial stereotyping in the poem "When I Was Growing Up"?

26. Describe the marvels of nature explored by Annie Dillard in *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*.

27. How does Harold Pinter express anti-Americanism in "Art, Truth and Politics"?

28. Theme of the poem "Breaking Silence".

IV. Answer any two of the following in an essay (2x15 = 30)

29. Discuss the contemporary relevance of Gandhi's letter?

30. How does the Okanagan language bond the people to their land?

31. Describe how Svetlana Alexievich's book *Voice from Chernobyl* becomes a monument to suffering and courage in our time?

32. Charlie Chaplin's criticism of dictatorship in "The Great Dictator"?