

FROM THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

Class 10 CBSE NCERT English (First Flight) — Complete Revision & Study Guide

Subject: English Language & Literature (Code 184)

Class: Class 10 CBSE

Textbook: First Flight (Prose)

Author: Anne Frank (Annelies Marie Frank)

1. Chapter Overview & Introduction

'From the Diary of Anne Frank' is an excerpt from *The Diary of a Young Girl* written by **Anne Frank**, a young Jewish girl hiding with her family in Amsterdam during World War II. The lesson provides a poignant yet humorous glimpse into her inner thoughts, her reasons for writing a diary, her family background, her school life, and her witty relationship with her math teacher, **Mr. Keesing**.

2. Key Figures & Timeline

Name / Date	Role / Importance
Anne Frank	Born on 12 June 1929 in Frankfurt, Germany. Young Jewish diarist who wrote while hiding in the Annex.
Margot Frank	Anne's elder sister, born in Frankfurt in 1926 .
Otto Frank	Anne's father, described by Anne as the "most adorable father." Emigrated to Holland in 1933 .
Edith Holländer Frank	Anne's mother, who went with Otto to Holland in September 1933.
Grandmother	Lived with Anne and Margot in Aachen. Fell ill in 1939 and passed away in January 1942 . Anne loved her deeply.
Mrs. Kuperus	Headmistress at the Montessori nursery school in Amsterdam; wept during emotional farewell with Anne in 6th form.
Mr. Keesing	Anne's strict math teacher who assigned her extra essays on chatterboxes as punishment for talking in class.
12 June 1942	Anne received her diary as a gift for her 13th birthday.
20 June 1942	Anne made her first major journal entry included in the textbook.

3. Major Themes & Detailed Explanation

A. "Paper has more patience than people"

Anne reflects on why writing a diary feels like a strange experience for a 13-year-old girl. She believes no one would be interested in the musings of a young schoolgirl. However, she feels compelled to write because she has thoughts that need to come out.

- **Philosophical Observation:** Anne famously states that "*Paper has more patience than people.*" Paper listens passively without judgment, interrupting, or getting bored.
- **Need for a True Friend:** Although Anne has loving parents, a sister, about 30 friends, and admirers, she lacks a **true confidante** with whom she can share her innermost emotions.

- **Naming the Diary "Kitty":** To make her diary feel like the true friend she never had, Anne names it **Kitty** and addresses her entries to it directly.

B. Anne's Early Life & Schooling

Anne gives a brief sketch of her family life to make her diary entries understandable to readers:

- Her parents married when her father was 36 and mother was 25.
- Anne and Margot were sent to live with their grandmother in **Aachen** while their parents moved to Holland in 1933.
- Margot went to Holland in December, and Anne followed in February as a "birthday present" for Margot.
- Anne attended the **Montessori nursery school** until age six, bonding closely with the headmistress, Mrs. Kuperus.

C. Class Tension & Meeting the Teachers

In her entry dated **20 June 1942**, Anne describes the nervous environment in her school:

- **Result Announcement:** The entire class was "shaking in its boots" waiting to hear who would advance to the next form and who would be kept back.
- **Anne's View on Teachers:** Anne observed that teachers are the "*most unpredictable creatures on earth.*" Half the class was making bets on the outcome, but Anne felt confident about every subject except **Mathematics**.

D. Conflict and Wit with Mr. Keesing

Mr. Keesing, the old-fashioned math teacher, was annoyed with Anne because she talked incessantly during class. He punished her by giving extra homework in the form of essays on talking:

Essay #	Assigned Topic	Anne's Argument & Strategy
1st Essay	'A Chatterbox'	Argued that talking is a student's trait, and while she would try to control it, it was an inherited trait from her mother that could not be cured. Mr. Keesing had a good laugh.
2nd Essay	'An Incurrigible Chatterbox'	Assigned after Anne continued talking in class. She wrote it successfully, keeping Mr. Keesing quiet for two full lessons.
3rd Essay	'Quack, Quack, Quack, Said Mistress Chatterbox'	Written in verse with help from her friend Sanne (who was good at poetry). A satirical poem about a mother duck, father swan, and three ducklings who were bitten to death by the father because they quacked too much.

Outcome: Mr. Keesing took the joke in the right spirit. He read the poem to Anne's class and other classes, adding his own comments. From then on, Anne was allowed to talk in class without extra homework, and Mr. Keesing frequently made jokes in class.

4. Important Vocabulary & Key Expressions

Term	Meaning	Context in Chapter
Musings	Thoughtful reflections or meditations	Thoughts Anne writes in her diary.
Confide	To share secret or personal feelings with trust	Anne wanted a true friend to confide in.
Incurrigible	Bad beyond correction or reform	Topic assigned by Mr. Keesing for continuous talking.
Plunged in	Go straight into a topic	Anne providing a brief family background first.

Shaking in its boots	Trembling with fear or anxiety	Class waiting anxiously for exam results.
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Cause-and-Effect Relationship

Cause: Anne talked excessively during math lessons.

Effect: Mr. Keesing assigned her funny extra essays on chatterboxes.

Ultimate Outcome: Anne's humorous poem won over Mr. Keesing, easing class strictness and turning tension into mutual humor.

Exam Tip & Board Exam Focus

High-Yield Question: Why did Anne say "paper has more patience than people"?

Answer Key Points: Paper is passive, non-judgmental, and available at all times. People can be impatient, judgmental, or uninterested in a young girl's private feelings.

Memory Trick for Essays: C-I-Q

- **C:** Chatterbox (1st Essay)
- **I:** Incurable Chatterbox (2nd Essay)
- **Q:** Quack, Quack, Quack (3rd Essay - Poem in Verse)

Key Takeaways

- Anne Frank's diary 'Kitty' became her ultimate confidante.
- Inherited traits (mother's talkative nature) explained Anne's talkativeness.
- Wit, humor, and creative writing transformed a strict punishment into mutual respect.