

Name _____ Date _____

Anne Frank

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. Annelies Marie Frank, called Anne for short, was born on June 12, 1929. She lived with her mother Edith, father Otto and older sister Margot. They lived in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, where Otto’s family had lived for generations. The Frank family was Jewish, and it was becoming harder to be Jewish in Germany. Adolf Hitler blamed Jewish people and other minorities for the country’s bad economy. He used propaganda in the press, radio, art, film and theater to spread his message of anti-Semitism. When Hitler rose to power in 1933, the Franks moved to Amsterdam, Holland, to escape his anti-Jewish laws.

Notes

2. The Frank family lived relatively peacefully in Amsterdam. Otto owned a successful business that sold spices and supplies for making jam. Anne and her sister Margot went to school and were quite popular with their classmates. However, the threat of war in Europe was growing stronger. In 1939 the Nazis began the Holocaust, the systematic murder of Jewish people and members of other minority groups. That same year, led by Hitler, they invaded Poland, and World War II began. In 1940 the Nazis invaded and occupied Holland, where the Franks lived.

Notes

3. Otto Frank had begun turning the annex of his office building into a secret hiding place even before the Nazis invaded Holland. On July 4, 1942, Anne’s sister Margot received a notice to report to a German “work camp.” Forced-labor camps were part of the Nazis’ efforts to get rid of Jewish people in Europe. Thousands of Jews died in labor camps as a result of exhaustion, starvation and exposure to bad weather and disease. The Frank family moved into their hiding place the next day. They were soon joined by four Jewish acquaintances.

Notes

4. When the Nazis invaded Holland, they imposed a law that said Jewish people could not own businesses. Otto was forced to give up his business, Opekta. He gave the company to a couple of loyal employees-turned-friends, Jo Kleiman and Victor Kluger. Otto was able to stay active in the business behind the scenes. Later, when the Franks were in hiding, these employees were instrumental in helping them survive. Along with two more Opekta employees, Miep Gies and Bep Voskuijl, they visited the Secret Annex regularly. They brought food, supplies and news from the outside world.

Notes

5. On August 4, 1944, Nazi police invaded the Secret Annex. Someone—we don't know who—had betrayed the Frank family. All eight people living in the Secret Annex were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Anne and her sister Margot ended up at Bergen-Belsen, a camp in Germany. They both died of typhus, a disease that was common in the overcrowded, unsanitary camps.

Notes

Anne left her diary in the Secret Annex. Miep Gies, one of the Opekta employees who helped the Frank family, saved the diary, hoping to give it back to Anne after the war. She eventually gave it to Otto, the only inhabitant of the Secret Annex who survived the Holocaust. Otto got Anne's diary published in 1947, fulfilling Anne's dream of becoming an author.