

The Diary of Anne Frank
Act II Study Questions

8.RL.1 - Reading: Literature

Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Act 2, Scene 1 & 2: Answer the following questions in **complete sentences** and in **BLUE**! Incorporate the question in your answer.

EXAMPLE: *Mr. Dussel's disagreeable personality is first revealed in this scene by his insistence that Mrs. Frank divide the cake rather than Mrs. Van Daan. Mr. Dussel feels that Mrs. Van Daan always gives her husband a little more than everybody else while Mrs. Frank divides portions equally. Later in the scene, Mr. Dussel's disagreeable behavior continues when he.....*

1. Describe, in complete sentences, incidents in this scene that reveal the following. There are multiple examples for almost all of these incidents.

- Mr. Dussel's disagreeable personality
- Miep and Mr. Kraler's generosity
- Mr. Van Daan's greed
- Mrs. Van Daan's vanity
- Mr. Frank's level-headedness

2. Mr. Kraler brings news of a problem. Explain the situation.

3. Give evidence that Peter's feelings toward Anne have changed. What does Peter admire about Anne?

4. In what ways do you feel Anne has changed since Act I? What were some of her hopes and dreams at the beginning of the play? What is she planning to become now?

Act 2, Scene 3:

6. Why does Mrs. Frank become enraged (angry) for the first time? Describe the scene. What is the result?
7. One of the members of the Annex says, "We don't need the Nazis to destroy us. We're destroying ourselves (Act 2, Scene 3, 755). Who says this? What is the situation? What does this mean?
8. By the end of the scene, what are your feelings toward Mr. Van Daan? Toward Mrs. Frank?
9. What new threat has now appeared at the end of Scene 3?

Act 2, Scene 4:

10. Why does Mr. Dussel want Mr. Frank to answer the phone? Why does Mr. Frank refuse?
11. How is the tension between the Van Daans revealed?
12. Anne tells Peter that she has a way of "escaping" the annex. Explain.
13. Explain the quote: "For the past two years we have lived in fear. Now we can live in hope (Act 2, Scene 4, 761)." Who says it? Who is being spoken to? What does this quote mean?
14. How do the inhabitants of the Secret Annex behave upon the arrival of the police? Do they behave as you would expect?
15. Anne's actual diary ends three days before her arrest. What, then, is the purpose of the diary entry in this scene?

Act 2, Scene 5:

16. Remember the flashback at the beginning of the play? Explain what just happened.
17. What is implied by Mr. Frank's reading Anne's diary entry, and then saying, "She puts me to shame?"
18. Does the play offer any evidence of Anne's statement that "people are really good at heart?" Explain your thoughts and feelings about this.