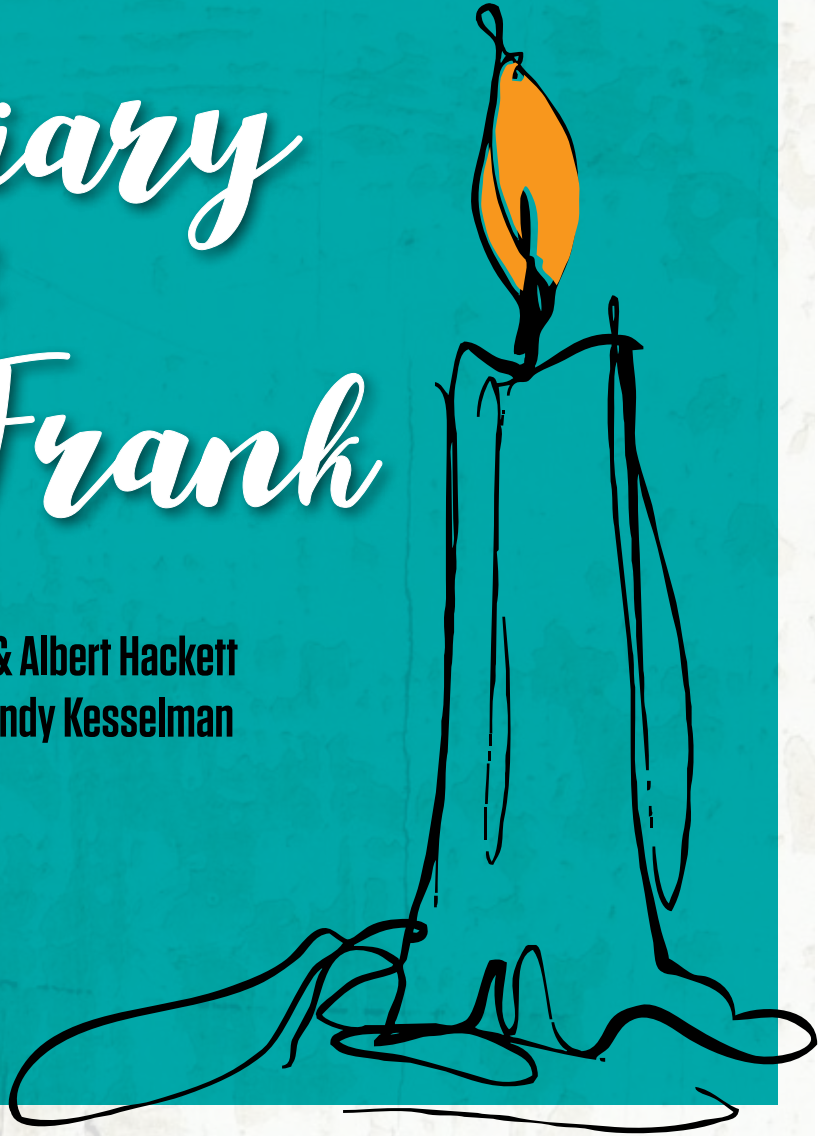


# COMPANY OF FOOLS

## Study Guide

# The Diary of Anne Frank

By Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett  
Newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman



The Sun Valley Center for the Arts and Company of Fools' staged reading of The Diary of Anne Frank is produced in partnership with the Wood River Jewish Community and St. Thomas Episcopal Church. The readings have been generously supported by Carol P. Nie, the Wood River Jewish Community Board of Directors and St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

### COMPANY OF FOOLS 22nd SEASON SPONSORS:

Anonymous, The Shubert Foundation, Barbara & Stanley Zax, Ken Lewis, Linda & Bob Edwards, Priscilla Pittiglio, Arrow 'R Storage, The Carr Foundation, Mary Ann & John Underwood, Scott Miley Roofing, and our media sponsor *The Weekly Sun*

[sunvalleycenter.org](http://sunvalleycenter.org)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1** WELCOME TO COMPANY OF FOOLS & THE LIBERTY THEATRE
- 2** ABOUT THE PLAY
- 3** ENGAGING STUDENTS BEFORE & AFTER THE SHOW
- 4** ABOUT COMPANY OF FOOLS' STAGED READING
- 5** THE HOLOCAUST & ANNE FRANK
- 6** ANNE'S WORDS
- 7** ANNE FRANK MEMORIAL BOISE
- 8** IDAHO CONTENT STANDARDS & RESOURCES



# WELCOME TO COMPANY OF FOOLS

Dear Educator,

Company of Fools and the Sun Valley Center for the Arts are pleased to offer you this study guide to prepare you and your students for our staged reading of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Working with schools is a fundamental part of The Center's mission.

We hope this study guide will serve as a useful resource for you as educators and parents. It is designed to enhance student learning both before and after the performance, to support your classroom lesson plans and deepen the educational value of your students' experience. The resources and activities in this study guide support the Idaho Content Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy for grades 8-12.

Thank you for the sharing the magic of performing arts with your students!

—Company of Fools

## ABOUT THE PLAY: *The Diary of Anne Frank*

In this powerful new adaptation by Wendy Kesselman, Anne Frank emerges from history a living, lyrical, intensely gifted young girl, who confronts her rapidly changing life and the increasing horror of her time with honesty, wit, and determination. An impassioned drama about the lives of eight people hiding from the Nazis in a concealed storage attic, *THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK* captures the claustrophobic realities of their daily existence—their fear, their hope, their laughter, their grief. Each day of these two dark years, Anne's voice shines through: "When I write I shake off all my cares. But I want to achieve more than that. I want to be useful and bring enjoyment to all people, even those I've never met. I want to go on living even after my death!" This is a new adaptation for a new generation.



## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER **BEFORE** SEEING THE PLAY

- Do you have similar or differing views/opinions from others in your family, classroom or community? How do you express your opinions and ideas? What gives you the courage to express yourself?
- While watching the play consider what would force people to leave their homes and go into hiding in close quarters with strangers.
- Refugees are people forced to leave their homes because of war and oppression. How would it feel if you were forced to leave home? How would you want to be welcomed into a new community?
- What role do helpers have in the story?



Margot Frank



Edith Frank



Otto Frank

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER **AFTER** SEEING THE PLAY

- How would you briefly describe what this play is a story about in one sentence?  
“This is a play about \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Did you relate to Anne, Margot or Peter at any point? What was it about their behavior and experiences that felt familiar or relatable?
- This was a play reading, not a full production. What kind of set, costumes, lighting, sound design might you imagine being used in a full production?
- Anne’s character is based on a real person and real experiences. Why is her story so important/relevant to tell today?



Hermann van Pels



Auguste van Pels



Fritz Pfeffer



Peter van Pels

★ *Teacher Tip!*

## WAYS TO ENGAGE STUDENTS **AFTER** SEEING THE PLAY

Using the above questions as potential prompts, here are some ways to encourage further examination of the play-going experience.

### EXPLORE

Free-write a journal entry

Write a scene,  
short play or story

### ANALYZE

Draw a connection to a current  
event or cultural reference

Connect, compare, contrast

### INTERACT

Improvise scenes

Talk to others in your community  
about their story

# ABOUT COMPANY OF FOOLS' STAGED READING

## Creative Team & Cast

Claudia McCain directs local actors David Janeski, Christine Leslie, Ward Loving, Rich Rush, Joel Vilinsky, Aly Wepplo and Patsy Wygle, with Wood River High School student Annabelle Lewis in the title role of Anne Frank, Community School student Chloe Khosrowshahi as Margot, and COF Apprentice and recent BSU alum Chris Henderson as Peter.



**Claudia McCain**



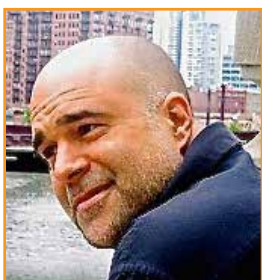
**David Janeski**



**Christine Leslie**



**Ward Loving**



**Rich Rush**



**Joel Vilinsky**



**Aly Wepplo**



**Patsy Wygle**



**Annabelle Lewis**  
as Anne Frank



**Chloe Khosrowshahi**  
as Margot



**Chris Henderson**  
as Peter

## Post-reading conversation with Jeannette Ringold



Jeannette Ringold was born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and was hidden with non-Jewish families during World War II. She has a PhD in Romance Languages and Literatures from UC Berkeley and is a literary translator, primarily from Dutch to English. She has translated many books pertaining to World War II in Holland and has been a member of the Speakers Bureau of the Holocaust Center in San Francisco for more than 30 years, speaking in high schools, colleges, and community events. She has been a member and a leader of the "Bay Area Hidden Children" group since 1991. Her most recent translation is 'The Phenomenon of Anne Frank', to be published by the Indiana University Press within the next two months.



# THE HOLOCAUST & ANNE FRANK

The Holocaust is framed by the end of World War I and the end of World War II. This timeline is an abbreviated version from United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's website: [ushmm.org/learn/timeline-of-event](https://ushmm.org/learn/timeline-of-event)

**Sep 1919:** Hitler issues his first written comment on the "Jewish Question" in which he defined Jews as a race and not a religious community.

**Feb 1920:** Hitler presents a 25-point program to a Nazi Party Meeting, with the intention to segregate Jews from "Aryan" society.

**June 12, 1929:** Annelies Marie Frank is born in Frankfurt Germany.

**Jan 1933:** Hitler is appointed Chancellor and the Nazi party assumes control of the German state. State sponsored persecution of the rights of Jews and others begins.

**March 1933:** Establishment of the first concentration camp outside of Dachau, Germany. The Holocaust resulted in the persecution and death of 11 million victims, 6 million were Jews.

**1933:** The Frank family leaves Germany and moves to Amsterdam.

**Aug 1934:** Hitler becomes absolute dictator of Germany.

**July 1938:** Delegates from 32 countries meet in Evian, France, to discuss the growing refugee crisis.

**Sept 1939:** Germany invades Poland initiating World War II in Europe.

**May 1940:** Holland surrenders to German troops. Auschwitz concentration camp is established as the largest of its kind.

**June 12, 1942:** Anne receives a diary for her 13th birthday.

**July 1942:** Frank Family goes into hiding in the secret annex. Deportation begins of 100,000 Dutch Jews to concentration camps in Germany and German-Occupied Poland.

**June 6, 1944:** D-Day, allied forces land at Normandy.

**Aug 4, 1944:** Dutch-Nazi police raid the secret annex. The family is deported to Auschwitz. Anne is later taken to Bergen-Belsen in northwestern Germany, where she dies in early 1945.

**Jan 1945:** Otto Frank, Anne's father is liberated by the Russian troops at Auschwitz. He returns to Amsterdam later that year and learns of the death of his daughters and is given Anne's diary.

**May 7, 1945:** German surrender to the Allied Forces

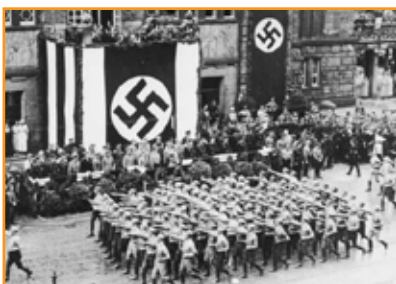
**Summer 1947:** *The Diary of Anne Frank*, edited by Otto Frank is published. By 1952 the book is published in Dutch, German, French and English.

**Oct, 5, 1955:** The play *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett opens at the Cort Theater in New York, later winning the New York critics Circle Best Play Award and the Pulitzer Prize.

**1959:** The Hollywood film version of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, produced and directed by George Stevens, opens in movie theatres throughout the United States. Shelley Winters wins an Oscar for her performance as Mrs. Van Daan.

**Dec 4, 1997:** The Broadway revival of *The Diary of Anne Frank* opens at the Music Box Theatre, featuring Natalie Portman in the title role, along with George Hearn, Linda Lavin, Harris Yulin, and Austin Pendleton.

**Aug 16, 2002:** Idaho Human Rights Center opened the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial in Boise.



German Nazi parade



"The Helpers"



Bookcase entrance to annex

# ANNE'S WORDS—Selected Entries from Anne's Diary

## ★ Did you Know?

Anne Frank was given a diary on June 12, 1942 for her 13th birthday. Here are a few selected entries from diary:



**June 12, 1942**

I hope I will be able to confide everything to you, as I have never been able to confide in anyone, and I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support.

**Saturday, June 20, 1942**

Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I've never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl. Oh well, it doesn't matter. I feel like writing, and I have an even greater need to get all kinds of things off my chest.

**Tuesday, March 7, 1944**

Dearest Kitty,

When I think back to my life in 1942, it all seems so unreal. The Anne Frank who enjoyed that heavenly existence was completely different from the one who has grown wise within these walls. Yes, it was heavenly. Five admirers on every street corner, twenty or so friends, the favorite of most of my teachers, spoiled rotten by Father and Mother, bags full of candy and a big allowance. What more could anyone ask for?

I look back at that Anne Frank as a pleasant, amusing, but superficial girl, who has nothing to do with me. What did Peter say about me? "Whenever I saw you, you were surrounded by a flock of girls and at least two boys, you were always laughing, and you were always the center of attention!" He was right.

What's remained of that Anne Frank? Oh, I haven't forgotten how to laugh or toss off a remark, I'm just as good, if not better, at raking people over the coals, and I can still flirt and be amusing, if I want to be...

But there's the catch. I'd like to live that seemingly carefree and happy life for an evening, a few days, a week. At the end of that week I'd be exhausted, and would be grateful to the first person to talk to me about something meaningful. I want friends, not admirers. People who respect me for my character and my deeds, not my flattering smile. The circle around me would be much smaller, but what does that matter, as long as they're sincere?

At such moments I don't think about all the misery, but about the beauty that still remains. This is where Mother and I differ greatly. Her advice in the face of melancholy is: "Think about all the suffering in the world and be thankful you're not part of it." My advice is: "Go outside, to the country, enjoy the sun and all nature has to offer. Go outside and try to recapture the happiness within yourself; think of all the beauty in yourself and in everything around you and be happy."

I don't think Mother's advice can be right, because what are you supposed to do if you become part of the suffering? You'd be completely lost. On the contrary, beauty remains, even in misfortune. If you just look for it, you discover more and more happiness and regain your balance. A person who's happy will make others happy; a person who has courage and faith will never die in misery!

Yours,  
Anne M. Frank



# ANNE FRANK MEMORIAL, BOISE

---

## ★ Did you Know?

- Located along the Greenbelt in downtown Boise, the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial opened in 2002 as an educational park designed to engage visitors to reflect, think and engage one another on human rights issues.
- The Memorial includes a life-sized bronze statue of Anne Frank as she peers out an open window. The walls of the Memorial contain over 60 quotes from the world's humanitarian leaders.
- The Memorial is the only Anne Frank Memorial in the United States and one of the few places in the world where the full Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is on permanent, public display.

## WHY AN ANNE FRANK MEMORIAL IN IDAHO?

- In 1995, a traveling exhibit on Anne Frank drew in tens of thousands of visitors from around Idaho. This overwhelming interest sparked the idea for a more permanent tribute.
- In 2002 the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial opened to the public.
- For more information visit:  
[wassmuthcenter.org/idaho-human-rights-anne-frank-memorial](http://wassmuthcenter.org/idaho-human-rights-anne-frank-memorial)

## IN THE NEWS

- In 2017 the Anne Frank Memorial was subjected to vandalism that included racist and anti-Semitic slurs.  
[idahostatesman.com/news/local/community/boise/article149968282.html](http://idahostatesman.com/news/local/community/boise/article149968282.html)  
[idahostatesman.com/news/local/article152530704.html](http://idahostatesman.com/news/local/article152530704.html)



Anne Frank Memorial, Boise

# IDAHO CONTENT STANDARDS

Reading Standards for Literature that apply to *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Company of Fools* staged reading.

## KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

- **8th grade:** Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- **9th-10th grade :** Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

## CRAFT AND STRUCTURE

Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

- **8th grade:** Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.
- **9th-10th grade:** Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature.

## INTEGRATION OF KEY IDEAS

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

- **11th-12th grade:** Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text. (Include at least one play by Shakespeare and one play by an American dramatist.)

**Materials for this study guide were gathered from these sources:**

[ushmm.org/learn/timeline-of-events](http://ushmm.org/learn/timeline-of-events)

[wassmuthcenter.org/idaho-human-rights-annnn-frank-memorial/](http://wassmuthcenter.org/idaho-human-rights-annnn-frank-memorial/)

[idahostatesman.com/news/local/community/boise/article149968282.html](http://idahostatesman.com/news/local/community/boise/article149968282.html)

[idahostatesman.com/news/local/article152530704.html](http://idahostatesman.com/news/local/article152530704.html)

[sde.idaho.gov/academic/shared/ela-literacy/booklets/ELA-Literacy-Standards.pdf](http://sde.idaho.gov/academic/shared/ela-literacy/booklets/ELA-Literacy-Standards.pdf)

Frank, Anne, et al. "The Diary of Anne Frank." *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Bantam, 1993