

OF ANNE FRANK

A 5 PART DRAMA FOR THE BBC

RESOURCES FROM THE ANNE FRANK TRUST

WHOLE SERIES

HISTORY AND ENGLISH

KS3 / S1

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explore both sides of the dilemma behind Mr Frank's decision to publish Anne's diary.
- To consider what makes information historically valid.
- To reflect on people's attitude to the Holocaust and how they have changed.

INTRODUCTION

Otto Frank returned from Auschwitz on the 3rd of June 1945, it had taken him four months to make the journey back since liberation of the camp. All his family were dead.

Miep, his secretary, who helped the family in hiding, had found Anne's diary and returned it to him.

Eventually Otto read the diary and learned more about Anne's desire to be a published writer. He was met with the challenge of whether to publish it or not.

MAIN BODY

Draw up a list of the pros and cons of publishing this diary that Otto may have struggled with. See attached sheet.

Hints are provided for those in the class who may require it.

Key Questions-

Who is featured in the diary, what happened to them? - would they or their relatives like the way they were portrayed?

What are the subjects Anne writes about? Are they personal? Embarrassing?

Can Anne live on in the diary?

How can other people appreciate what the Franks and many other families went through?

Discussion could highlight Anne's decision to change people's names in the published diary. Why might she have done this?

The first edition was edited to exclude many of Anne's unkind comments about her mother and any intimate details deemed unsuitable for the time.

The current edition of the diary is now a complete copy without editing but still with the pseudonyms.

Such editing may lead to questions about the nature of a diary as a historical artefact. Is it a valid account for historians to use? How about the drama, is it a valid historical piece?

EXTENSION

Anne's life ambition was to become a writer and after her death, she achieved it.

What are your dreams and aspirations?

What can you do to achieve them?

PLENARY

Once Otto had decided to have the diary published, several publishers declined. This was in post war Europe in the 1950's. Why do the class think this was the case?

Now there appears to be a keen interest for books and films about the Holocaust - which ones do the class know?

How can we use this interest to help learn lessons from the past?