

# Anne Frank Day

Sunday, 12 June 2011

“Nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” Anne Frank

Each year on the 12th June, on what would have been her birthday, we celebrate Anne Frank Day. This year Anne Frank would be celebrating her 82nd birthday. Every year the Anne Frank Trust asks young people to mark this day, inspiring them to become active citizens. Here is your opportunity for you to inspire your students to fulfil Anne’s wish for a better world.

## Aims

- To remember Anne Frank and understand the difference that she has made
- To understand the importance of making a difference in your community

## Theme

The lesson aims to help the students understand the consequences of performing a good deed (or Jewish mitzvah). This is inspired by the short story “Give”, written by Anne Frank and recently re-published in “Tales from the Secret Annexe” [ISBN 978-1-905559-20-6].

## Approach

Teacher led with pupil reflection and some pupil involvement. Suggested lesson timing 20 minutes.

## Activity

We have provided a lesson plan to use on Anne Frank Day. This will comprise:

1. An overview of the story of Anne Frank
2. Reading or showing of animated version of the short story “Give”
3. Creative activity inspiring responses based on good deeds that the students feel they can enact - opportunity for display of this work
4. Students to sign up to the Anne Frank Declaration

## Resources

- Lesson plan and background information for teachers
- A set of PowerPoint slides to act as a visual aid to the lesson plan
- Anne Frank Declaration for the children to sign and take home
- Extension activities linked to relevant scripture
- Link to animated version of short story “Give”
- All resources to be downloadable

## Audience

Children 10+ years of age in religious Sunday school lessons or school assembly

Please go to our website to download the  
Anne Frank Day 2011 Teachers Resources  
[www.annefrank.org.uk](http://www.annefrank.org.uk)



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### **Cover slide - slide 1**

*Not to be used in the assembly. This slide serves to introduce the slide show only.*

### **Introduction - slide 2 - 2 mins**

*Show image of Anne Frank on her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

Q: Can you identify Anne Frank?

A: *Anne is the second girl on the left. This is a picture of Anne and her friends celebrating her tenth birthday.*

Q: Anne Frank would have been celebrating her birthday today. How old would she have been?

A: *Take guesses – 82 years old.*

Q: The 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011 marks the 82nd anniversary of Anne's birth. Why is she famous?

A: *Various reasons but her diary is what has made her famous.*

Q: What do you know about Anne?

A: *Take five to ten facts, clarifying as necessary.*

### **Anne's life - slide 3 - 5 mins**

Today we're going to have our lesson / assembly remembering Anne Frank, and at the end of it, we're going to all stand up together, and make a pledge. Let me tell you why.

Anne Frank was born in Germany in 1929, she had two parents and an older sister, Margot. Anne and her family were Jewish.

In Germany in 1933, a man named Adolf Hitler was elected as national leader. He then became a dictator – he put himself in charge of nearly everything that happened in the country, and as soon as he was elected the citizens of Germany were not allowed to complain or protest about what was happening. If they did, it was very likely they would be punished and imprisoned. Hitler's political party was called the National Socialist Party, known as the Nazis.

In the mid 1930s, Hitler began to put in place rules and regulations which took away the rights of Jewish people – and other groups – and they began to find it very difficult to carry on their normal lives. They suffered from discrimination and were isolated from the rest of their community.

Anne's father, Otto realised that Nazi control of Germany was going to be bad news for Jewish people, and so in 1934, he moved his family to another country, Holland.

Holland was a very accepting country, and many German Jews moved there to escape persecution. The Franks moved to the city of Amsterdam.

Hitler became more and more powerful, he wanted to rule other countries as well as Germany, so he began to invade other nations, and take them over. First he attacked Poland, and then other Western European nations such as France, Belgium and Holland.



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In May 1940, the German army invaded and occupied Holland. Very quickly, the same kinds of rules against Jewish people that the Frank family had escaped from in Germany, were put in to place in Holland. But by now, Hitler and the Nazis had begun to murder hundreds of thousands of Jews across Europe.

Anne celebrated her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1942. One of her presents from her parents was a notebook with a red and white checked cover. She started to use it as a diary. Soon after Otto decided the family would go into hiding, and so they moved from their house to a secret building above and behind Otto's office. They stayed in this secret place for over two years, with four other people.

Anne's world became tiny; a few small rooms and two attic windows to look out of. Anne and Margot kept up with their school work and read a lot, and nearly every day Anne wrote in her diary about day to day life, the funny things that happened, the scary things that happened. She also wrote about her feelings, changes that were happening to her as she grew older, her fights with her sister and mother. She was very opinionated and had something to say about nearly everything!

Throughout the two years in hiding the Franks, who were joined by the van Pels family and later by Fritz Pfeffer, were terrified of being discovered. During the day they had to walk quietly and talk softly so that the people working below in Otto's business could not hear them. They also had to be careful about being heard or spotted by neighbours.

In August 1944, the eight people in hiding together with two helpers, were discovered by the Nazis. Somebody had told them: "There are Jews hiding at 263 Prinsengracht". They were taken away by the Nazis and Dutch police and were sent to Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland. They were mistreated and starved, and made to work like slaves. They became ill and weak, and within eight months of their arrests, all of them apart from Otto, had died at the hands of the Nazis.

Why? Because they were Jewish. These deaths and the deaths of six million other people across Europe in the 1930s and 1940s is called the Holocaust. Black people, disabled people and gay people were also targeted. As were Roma gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses and political opponents of the Nazis. Hundreds of camps and prisons were established across the continent, some with dedicated systems designed to kill thousands of people at once.

When Anne Frank and her family were arrested, they weren't allowed to take any of their possessions with them, and so Anne's diary and notebooks were left behind in the Secret Annexe. They were given to her father by one of the surviving helpers, Miep Gies, when he returned after the war. In 1947, Anne's diary was published as a book, which is still being read by people all across the world. It is called *The Diary of a Young Girl*. Millions of people have read Anne's diary, and it has been translated into more than 70 languages.

### **Anne's peers - show slide 4 – 2 mins**

Let me tell you about a couple of other people Anne grew up with who are alive today.

*Show image of Buddy Elias.* This is Anne's favourite cousin Bernd, or Buddy as most people call him. Slightly older than Anne, they shared the same sense of fun and mischief. He grew up in Switzerland and after the war became a professional skater and actor. He celebrated his 85th birthday this year.



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*Show image of Eva Schloss.* This is Eva Schloss, she was a neighbour and schoolmate of Anne's who later became Otto Frank's step-daughter, when Otto married her mother after the war. She turned 82 earlier this year. Eva visits schools across the UK, sharing her experience of surviving Auschwitz and the Holocaust. She has written two books and a play about her life.

**“Nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world” - slide 5 - 1 min**

During her time in hiding, Anne was on the receiving end of huge acts of kindness. In her diary, Anne noted, "it's amazing how much these generous and unselfish people do, risking their own lives to help and save others. The best example of this is our own helpers, who have managed to pull us through so far and will we hope bring us safely to shore, because otherwise they'll find themselves sharing the fate of those they're trying to protect." The wellbeing of the people hiding in the annexe depended upon the delivery of provisions that their brave helpers unobtrusively ferried by bicycle across the city.

In addition to her diary writing, Anne penned some short stories, some of which were inspired by these acts of kindness. This reading of the short story "Give!" written by Anne Frank is an indication of her views of how she believed humans could "improve the world".

*Teacher to select parts to read or pupils can be given paragraphs to read. Alternatively, visit the following url to view the animated version*

[http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/af/htmlsite/artifact\\_2\\_0.html](http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/af/htmlsite/artifact_2_0.html)

*(Total passage – 6 mins).*

**“Give!” written by Anne Frank (Sunday, 26 March 1944)**

Do any of those people in their warm and cosy living rooms have any idea what kind of life a beggar leads? Do any of these “good” and “kind” people ever wonder about the lives of so many of the children and adults around them? Granted, everyone has given a coin to a beggar at some time or another, though they usually just shove it into his hand and slam the door. And in most cases the generous donors think it's disgusting to touch that hand! Am I right or not? Then, afterwards, people are amazed that beggars are so shameless! Wouldn't you be shameless too if you were treated more like a dog than a human being?

It's terrible, really terrible, that people treat each other this way in a country like Holland, which claims to have such a good social system and so many decent, upstanding citizens. In the eyes of most of the well-to-do, a beggar is an inferior being, somebody who's scruffy and unwashed, pushy and rude. But have they ever asked themselves how beggars got to be that way?

You should try comparing one of those beggar children with your own children! What's the difference? Yours are pretty and neat, the others are ugly and ragged! Is that all? Yes, that's all, that's the only difference. If you dressed one of those urchins in nice clothes and taught him good manners, there wouldn't be a whit of difference!

Everyone is born equal; we all come into the world helpless and innocent. We all breathe the same air, and many of us believe in the same God. And yet...and yet, to many people this one small difference is a huge one! It's huge because many people have never realised what the difference is, for if they had they would have discovered long ago that there's actually no difference at all!



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Everyone is born equal; we will all die and shed our earthly glory. Riches, power and fame last for only a few short years. Why do we cling so desperately to these fleeting things? Why can't people who have more than enough for their own needs give the rest to their fellow human beings? Why should anyone have to have such a hard life for those few short years on earth?

But above all, a gift should never be flung in anyone's face – every person has a right to kindness. Why should you be nicer to a rich lady than to a poor one? Has anyone ever studied the difference in their characters?

Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power, but in character and goodness. People are just people, and all people have faults and shortcomings, but all of us are born with a basic goodness. If we were to start by adding to that goodness instead of stifling it, by giving poor people the feeling that they too are human beings, we wouldn't necessarily have to give money or material things, since not everyone has them to give.

Everything starts in small ways, so in this case you can begin in small ways too. On trams, for example, don't just offer your seat to rich mothers, think of the poor ones too. And say "excuse me" when you step on a poor person's toe, just as you say it to a rich one. It takes so little effort, yet it means so much. Why shouldn't you show a little kindness to those poor urchins who are already so deprived?

We all know that a good example is more effective than advice. So set a good example, and it won't take long for others to follow. More and more people will become kind and generous, until finally no one will ever again look down on those without money.

Oh, if only we were there already! If only Holland, then Europe, and finally the whole world realised how unfair it was being, if only the time would come when people treated each other with genuine good will, in the realisation that we're all equal and that worldly things are transitory!

How wonderful it is that no one has to wait, but can start right now to gradually change the world! How wonderful it is that everyone, great and small, can immediately help bring about justice by giving of themselves.

As with so many things, most people seek justice in very different quarters, and grumble because they themselves receive so little of it. Open your eyes, be fair in your own dealings first! Give whatever there is to give! You can always – always – give something, even if it's a simple act of kindness! If everyone were to give in this way and didn't scrimp on kindly words, there would be much more love and justice in the world!

Give and you shall receive, much more than you ever thought possible. Give and give again. Keep hoping, keep trying, keep giving! People who give will never be poor!

If you follow this advice, within a few generations, people will never have to feel sorry for poor little beggar children again, because there won't be any!

The world has plenty of room, riches, money and beauty. God has created enough for each and every one of us. Let us begin by dividing it more fairly!



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### The Anne Frank Declaration – slide 6 - 3 mins

In 1998, thirteen years ago, The Anne Frank Declaration was created. It was created to honour the memory of Anne Frank. Anne Frank is one of millions of children who have been terrorised, hurt or even killed in wars and conflicts around the world. The Anne Frank Declaration is a declaration that every single person – here in this room – and across the country can sign up to.

Today, we're going to all make a pledge to follow the guidelines of the declaration in our lifetimes, so that we can try and stop the suffering of other children and adults in the future:

*All stand and listen*

*Teacher or pupil reads:*

Anne Frank is a symbol of the millions of innocent children who have been victims of persecution. Anne's life shows us what can happen when prejudice and hatred go unchallenged.

Because prejudice and hatred harm us all, I declare that:

- I will stand up for what is right and speak out against what is unfair and wrong
- I will try to defend those who cannot defend themselves
- I will strive for a world in which our difference will make no difference – a world in which everyone is treated fairly and has an equal chance in life

### Lesson extension: Links to stories in the Bible

#### The Story of Boaz

Boaz acted in a very caring generous fashion towards Naomi and Ruth. He provided much more than was expected of him - more than money could buy - shelter, security etc. He was the one who could so easily have neglected Naomi and Ruth - they had no option but to care for each other, Boaz was in a different situation - he could have ignored them completely. (Ruth 2:3, 8-17)

#### Parshah Shlach (Numbers 13:1 – 15:41)

G-d instructs us to place fringes (tzit-tzit) on the four corners of our garments so that we should remember to fulfil the mitvot. A mitzvah is one of the Torah's 613 Divine commandments and is a good deed.

### The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Anne Frank Trust UK

This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Anne Frank Trust UK. Established in 1991, the Anne Frank Trust UK promotes positive citizenship, human rights, democracy and respect for the individual, educating people about the dangers of racism, prejudice and hatred in contemporary Britain. The Trust draws on Anne Frank's diary and life to challenge discrimination, encouraging people of all ages and backgrounds to become more responsible, have respect for others and embrace positive attitudes.



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The Anne Frank Trust's national team deliver peer education programmes in schools, colleges, prisons and within local communities, focusing on areas of division and deprivation in London, the north east, north west and east of England, and in Scotland. Through these programmes, people learn about the life and diary of Anne Frank, and her story within the context of the Holocaust.

Anne Frank is a powerful role model for young people and adults alike. Against all odds, Anne demonstrates qualities that all people can aspire to: incredible courage, optimism, generosity and belief in the goodness of people. Anne Frank encourages us to be proud of who we are and to respect others, regardless of background.

All of the Trust's education programmes promote greater harmony and understanding across the diverse ethnic and religious communities which make up 21st century Britain.

In order to deliver these programmes to areas facing division and deprivation in the UK, the Anne Frank Trust seeks your support to continue this work. Please encourage your pupils to use Anne's story as a catalyst for fundraising for the Anne Frank Trust so that we can continue to do our work to do Anne's bidding to start to "improve the world". Here are some fundraising ideas:

**F**antasy football or any sport - Do a sweep stake and have a small prize for the winner.

**U**ndertake a sponsored challenge, here are some ideas:

Sponsored swim, walk or run

Sponsored give-up: Addicted to chocolate, your play station, your phone or can't stop talking? I bet there are lots of people who would pay to see you give it up! **Hint** - get people to sponsor you on time, the longer you go without, the more money you get

**N**ight give-up - Give up a night out and donate the money you would have spent. Why not ask your friends to come round and do the same!

**D**are - Get your friends and family to sponsor you to do a dare. Whether it's slipping a silly word into a conversation or wearing your clothes inside out, you're bound to bring some entertainment.

**R**ag - Contact a local RAG (Raising And Giving group at universities) and ask them to fundraise for The Anne Frank Trust UK. Better still, if you're a student set up a RAG yourself.

**A**nne Frank quiz - Ask people to pay entry and have a quiz, where the winner gets a small prize.

**I**ndulge - Have an indulgent cake sale. Ask your family and friends to make cakes and sell them. The more indulgent the cake, the higher the price!

**S**mall change - Ask your family and friends to empty their pockets of change at the end of each day for one week. It's amazing how much you can make and takes up only a little of your time.

**E**vent - Put together an event and charge people a ticket entrance. Here are some ideas: barn dance, coffee morning, car wash, fashion show, quiz, raffle, talent contest.



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