Before You Read

Understanding **plot** and **theme** makes reading narratives meaningful. Narratives include short stories, novels, and dramas.

All narratives have **plot**, which is the ______________ of _________________ in a story.

The genre of *The Diary of Anne Frank: The Play* is _______________________. This is a work of literature meant to be performed for an audience by actors. The actors work from the playwright’s script, which includes **dialogue** and **stage directions** and are usually divided into **acts** and **scenes**.

Label and define the parts of the **plot diagram** below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of conflict</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tr>
<td>Person vs. Self (internal)</td>
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<td>Person vs. Person (external)</td>
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<td>Person vs. Environment (external)</td>
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<td>Person vs. Technology (external)</td>
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Theme is a ________________, ________________ , or ________________ of the story. It is what the author is trying to reveal about life. A theme is a complete sentence and is a broad statement that could be applied to situations other than just the story itself. Think about the morals at the end of Aesop’s fables as a reminder of what theme is.

Examples:


Theme of Terrible Things:


During Reading Questions

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Infer Why might the sight of the glove cause Mr. Frank to cry? What could this possibly be foreshadowing? (Foreshadowing is the use of clues or hints to suggest events that will occur later in the plot.)

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Analyze Most of this play is in the form of a flashback, an interruption in the present action of the plot to show events that happened at an earlier time.

The play starts in ________________, after the end of World War II. Then, as Mr. Frank looks at Anne’s diary, the scene flashes back to ________________, when Anne was writing in her diary.

Why do you think the writers have father and daughter speaking together at the point when the flashback occurs?

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Identify List three details that tell you how life changed for Anne after the Dutch capitulated (surrendered) and the Germans arrived in the Netherlands.

1.

2.

3.
Identify **Stage directions** often reveal characters’ thoughts and actions. Read the stage directions where each of the characters is introduced into the play. Write a few notes regarding what you learn about the characters.

Mr. Van Daan-

Mrs. Van Daan-

Peter Van Daan-

Margot-

Mrs. Frank-

Anne –

Mr. Kraler -

Use three words to describe Mr. Frank’s character now (1942) and three to describe him in 1945 (the first scene).

Infer How does Mr. Kraler feel about the German occupation of the Netherlands? What would happen to Mr. Kraler and Miep if the Nazis found out that they were hiding two Jewish families?

Sometimes an author reveals clues early in a story’s theme. Knowing the risks that Mr. Kraler and Miep are taking, what could this be hinting about a possible theme in the play?

Identify Based upon the instructions that Mr. Frank established with the other inhabitants of the annex, what are at least three rules they must follow?

Predict Considering the cramped living conditions and the strict rules they must follow, how do you think the Franks and the Van Daans will get along?
**Compare / contrast** Based upon their conversation together and Peter’s removal of the star from his clothing, describe ways in which Peter’s personality is different from Anne’s. Use words to describe their personalities.

**Infer** Why did the Franks leave everything in their home as if suddenly they have been called away?

**Theme** Longer works often have more than one theme. What theme or larger meaning might Mr. Frank’s words express when he says, “It’ll be hard, I know. But always remember this, Anneke. There are no walls, there are no bolts, no locks that anyone can put on your mind.”

**Drama: Soliloquy** Anne’s reading from her diary is a form of soliloquy, a speech in which a character speaks his or her private thoughts aloud. What is the effect on the audience or the reader of Anne’s voice reading from her diary? Why do you think the playwrights chose to reveal this information about her through the form of her reading her diary?

**Theme** Anne resists feelings of despair of being isolated from the outdoors and friends and being confined to a small space. How does she encourage herself and keep her attitude positive?

What larger point or theme about life might Anne’s attitude express?

**Compare and contrast** How is Peter’s relationship with his mother similar to Anne’s relationship with her mother? How is it different?

**Conflict** How does the sudden screeching of a car reintroduce the larger external conflict of the play?
Conflict: What do you think causes the conflict between Anne and her mother? Why might Anne so resist her mother’s wanting to take care of her?

Character: Read the stage directions following Mr. Frank and Mrs. Van Daan’s conversation. What does Mrs. Frank’s action reveal about her character?

Conflict: As tensions escalate, Anne increasingly becomes the focus of Mr. Van Daan’s anger. Why might this be so?

Character: Why is Mrs. Van Daan so upset about the accident?

Mrs. Frank is unhappy that her husband invited the Van Daans to stay at the Annex. Why, then, do you think she apologizes to Mr. Van Daan for the spilled milk?

Character: What does Mr. Frank’s response to Mr. Kraler’s request reveal about his character?

Identify: How will Mr. Dussel’s arrival impact everyone’s sleeping arrangements?

Draw conclusions: Why is Mr. Dussel’s surprise at seeing the Franks in Amsterdam good news for them?

Infer: What new information does Mr. Dussel provide regarding the outside world? How is this different from Mr. Kraler’s account of the outside world? Infer why Mr. Kraler’s version is different.

Mr. Dussel’s arrival represents a major complication in the plot. What new conflicts do you predict will develop as a result of Mr. Dussel living in the annex?
Discussion Questions

Directions: Follow your teacher’s instructions for answering and discussing these questions below.

1. Do you think Mr. Frank was right to invite the Van Daan’s to stay with his family in the Secret Annex?

2. Have you made any personal connections to the characters? Do you find that you have anything in common with the teenagers Anne or Peter?

3. How would you feel if you have to follow the same rules as the members in the Secret Annex? Which rule would be the hardest for you to follow? How would you react each day at 6 o’clock?

4. If you had to go into hiding, who would you rather hide with—the Franks or the Van Daans? Why?

5. Would you find Anne annoying if you had to live with her in the Annex? Why or why not?

6. Should Mr. Frank have made the decision to allow Mr. Dussel to stay without consulting the others? How did Mr. Van Daan’s response make you feel?

7. Think about the conflicts in the play so far. Do you think any of the conflicts might place the Franks and Van Daans in jeopardy of being safe from the Nazis?