

Unit Organizer--Seventh-Grade English
The Diary of Anne Frank

Subject Matter and Relationship to Core Knowledge Sequence:

- ❖ *The Diary of Anne Frank*—This is the aptly chosen piece for 7th graders to delve into the autobiography genre.

Assessments:

- ❖ Class discussion
- ❖ Bell-work paragraphs during and after the reading of the play, dealing with key themes and questions. This is especially important to facilitate personal reflection on an event as atrocious as the Holocaust.
- ❖ Quizzes for any reading portions assigned as homework.
- ❖ Final test

Standards for Achievement and Performance:

AFTER THIS UNIT THE STUDENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO...

- ❖ Review the background information surrounding the Holocaust.
- ❖ Know the distinctiveness of the autobiography genre.
- ❖ Know why *Anne Frank* has endured in popularity and importance since its publishing.
- ❖ Be moved by the timeless nature of impactful writing. Anne's wish was to go on living even after death, through her writing, and she accomplished just that.
- ❖ See the primacy of internal conflict in life and literature, even in the midst of the most intense external conflict.
- ❖ Analyze the effects external conflict can have on internal conflict and vice-versa.
- ❖ Explain the therapeutic role of writing/self-expression in the midst of great strife.
- ❖ Explain what makes for a great diary.
- ❖ Personally enter into the difficult, soul-searching questions that the reality of the Holocaust raises, especially as he/she walks through the hopes and horrors of it all, one day at a time with someone his/her same age.

Character Traits/Habits of Mind:

There are very few events that spark as much soul-searching questions as the Holocaust. The beauty of studying this book as a means of sparking and dealing with these questions is that the author was the same age as the 7th graders in the class. She had the same issues and joys and frustrations that today's junior highers have; however, she also offers a glimpse of life outside of common experience as she went through this horrific period while hiding with seven other people. She is also an example that writing at this age, even "informal" diary writing, can be beautiful, useful, and impactful.

Previous Unit(s):

- ❖ Vocabulary
- ❖ *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

Next Unit(s):

- ❖ Finals and then summer!!