

NCERT Solutions for Class 10 English Chapter 4 – From the Diary of Anne Frank

From the Diary of Anne Frank

Question 1:

Do you keep a diary? Given below under 'A' are some terms we use to describe a written record of personal experience. Can you match them with their descriptions under 'B'? (You may look up the terms in a dictionary if you wish.)

A	B
(i) Journal	– A book with a separate space or page for each day, in which you write down your thoughts and feelings or what has happened on that day
(ii) Diary	– A full record of a journey, a period of time, or an event, written every day
(iii) Log	– A record of a person's own life and experiences (usually, a famous person)
(iv) Memoir(s)	– A written record of events with times and dates, usually official

Answer:

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(i) Journal	– A full record of a journey, a period of time, or an event, written every day
(ii) Diary	– A book with a separate space or page for each day, in which you write down your thoughts and feelings or what has happened on that day
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(iv) Memoir(s)	– A record of a person's own life and experiences (usually, a famous person)

Question 2:

Here are some entries from personal records. Use the definitions above to decide which of the entries might be from a diary, a journal, a log or a memoir.

(i) I woke up very late today and promptly got a scolding from Mum! I can't help it — how can I miss the FIFA World Cup matches?

(ii) 10:30 a.m. Went to the office of the Director

01:00 p.m. Had lunch with Chairman

05:45 p.m. Received Rahul at the airport

09:30 p.m. Dinner at home

(iii) The ride to Ooty was uneventful. We rested for a while every 50 km or so, and used the time to capture the magnificent landscape with my HandyCam. From Ooty we went on to Bangalore.

What a contrast! The noise and pollution of this once-beautiful city really broke my heart.

(iv) This is how Raj Kapoor found me — all wet and ragged outside R.K.Studios. He was then looking for just someone like this for a small role in Mera Naam Joker, and he cast me on the spot. The rest, as they say, is history!

Answer:

(i) Diary

(ii) Log

(iii) Journal

(iv) Memoir

Oral Comprehension Check (Page 51)

Question 1:

What makes writing in a diary a strange experience for Anne Frank?

Answer:

Writing in a diary was a strange experience for Anne Frank because she had never written anything before in a diary as she had received it as a gift on her thirteenth birthday. She considered the diary to be her best friend where she could write all her thoughts and feelings. However, she also felt that no one would be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl, hence she could write freely in the diary to get all the worries off her chest.

Question 2:

Why does Anne want to keep a diary?

Answer:

Anne used to always feel lonely and upset as she had no friends. She wanted to get all the burden and worries off her chest, hence she decided to keep a diary in which she could confide her secrets and treat it as a true friend.

Question 3:

Why did Anne think she could confide more in her diary than in people?

Answer:

Anne had a strong feeling that paper had more patience than people to listen to her mental state. It was easier for her to pen down all her thoughts and wishes that she had in her mind in a diary. Hence, to confide her secrets, she felt her personal diary was the best companion and it was also not meant for anyone else to read.

Oral Comprehension Check (Page 51)

Question 1:

Why does Anne provide a brief sketch of her life?

Answer:

Anne provided a brief sketch of her life because she wanted to describe her family, school and herself. By reading her diary, it could help the reader to develop some sort of connection with her and all the activities that were happening around her at that time.

Question 7.

What tells you that Anne loved her grandmother?

Answer:

Anne lived with her grandmother for sometime while her parents settled down in Holland. She was very close to her Grandmother. She writes in her diary . "No one knows how often I think of her and still love her". On her 13th birthday by lightening up one candle for Grandmother she shows her love for her.

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Question 8.

Why was Mr Keesing annoyed with Anne? What did he ask her to do?

Answer:

Mr Keesing was annoyed with Anne because she was very talkative. He punished her by giving her extra homework to write essays to keep her silent and the topics always related to her nature.

Question 9.

How did Anne justify her being a chatterbox in her essay?

Answer:

Anne justified her being a chatterbox in her essay by explaining that it is due to her mother who was also very talkative and nobody could do anything about their inherited traits.

3. Do you think Mr. Keesing was a strict teacher?

Ans: Mr. Keesing was a strict teacher and wanted all the students to practice discipline and be silent in the class while he was teaching. Someone talking, while he was teaching was not acceptable to him. He punished Anne for talking in the class and asked her to draft an essay on 'A Chatterbox'. She wrote a convincing essay but when she started talking in the class again, he asked her to draft another essay titled 'An Incurable Chatterbox'. When she further continued testing his nerves and talking in the class, he asked her to write on the topic 'Quack Quack Quack, said Mistress Chatterbox.' She wrote yet another great piece of art and he acknowledged her content.

4. What made Mr. Keesing allow Anne to talk in class?

Ans: Anne cleverly kept her point for talking in the class every time Mr. Keesing punished her. She wrote her creative works cleverly and made him laugh through her work. He was impressed by the way she presented her arguments and finally, he had to accept that Anne would be this way and no punishment would change her. Hence, he allowed her to talk in the class.

Thinking about the Text

1. Was Anne right when she said that the world would not be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old girl?

Ans: Anne as a young teenager had no idea how the events of her life would eventually unfold. She thought no one would be interested in reading her diary

but after her death, her diary was published by her dad and the entire world now reads her diary, with great zeal.

2. There are some examples of diary or journal entries in the 'Before You Read' section. Compare these with what Anne writes in her diary. What language was the diary originally written in? In what way is Anne's diary different?

Ans: Anne's diary was originally written in Dutch. It became so popular that it was translated into many languages. She named her diary Kitty and it was very personal for her since she didn't write it with the filter of someone else reading it. The account, in the beginning, is a formal one. It's not personal and hence lacks that connection with the reader that the diary entries have. She used to start her entries with "Dearest Kitty" and would sign off as "Yours, Anne."

3. Why does Anne need to give a brief sketch about her family? Does she treat 'Kitty' as an insider or an outsider?

Ans: Anne considered Kitty as a new part of her life. She started writing because she knew Kitty would listen to everything, and had more patience than any human. Since she was not there with her since the beginning, she wanted to sum up the notable events and people in her life. She was alone and had no friends. She does give a brief sketch of her close relationship with her father and grandmother. They both were kind and loving and held a prominent place in her heart.

4. How does Anne feel about her father, her grandmother, Mrs. Kuperus and Mr. Keesing? What do these tell you about her?

Ans: Anne had a different opinion about everyone. For her, her father was the most adorable father she could have ever met. Her grandmother held a special place in her heart and she loved her dearly. She wrote about her in the diary and had an extra candle on her cake as a symbol of her presence. She loved Mrs. Kuperus. She was her teacher in the sixth form at Montessori Nursery School and was also the headmistress. They had a teary farewell. Mr. Keesing often troubled her with apology essays for her being a chatterbox in the class. He was the maths teacher and these punishments annoyed her. She was a lovable and smart person and emotionally attached to some people in her life.

5. What does Anne write in her first essay?

Solution : In her first essay, titled 'A Chatterbox', Anne wanted to come up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking. She began thinking about the subject. She wrote three pages and was satisfied. She argued that talking was a student's trait and that she would do her best to keep it under control. She further wrote that she would never be able to cure herself of the habit since her mother talked as much as she did. There was not much that one could do about inherited traits. Mr Keesing too had a good laugh reading her arguments.

6. Anne says teachers are most unpredictable. Is Mr Keesing unpredictable? How?

Solution : Anne felt that a quarter of her class was dumb, and should be kept back and not promoted to the next class. However, she also felt that teachers were the most unpredictable creatures on earth. Mr Keesing could be termed as unpredictable. The way Anne always talked while the class was going on, any teacher would lose his temper. However, after several warnings, all Mr Keesing did was to assign her extra homework. She had to write an essay on 'A Chatterbox'. In this way, he tried to play a joke on her. Each time that he asked her to write such essays, she wrote very well. She kept countering his jokes. One could not have predicted that he would take all the jokes in the right spirit. Finally, when she wrote an entire essay in verse he accepted her talkative nature and actually allowed her to talk in class. He did not even assign her any more extra homework. That is why it can be said that Mr Keesing was unpredictable.

7. What do these statements tell you about Anne Frank as a person?

- (i) We don't seem to be able to get any closer, and that's the problem. Maybe it's my fault that we don't confide in each other.
- (ii) I don't want to jot down the facts in this diary the way most people would, but I want the diary to be my friend.
- (iii) Margot went to Holland in December, and I followed in February, when I was plunked down on the table as a birthday present for Margot.
- (iv) If you ask me, there are so many dummies that about a quarter of the class should be kept back, but teachers are the most unpredictable creatures on earth.
- (v) Anyone could ramble on and leave big spaces between the words, but the

trick was to come up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of taking.

Solution :

(i) These lines show that Anne had no true friend whom she could confide in. She even put the blame on herself that the fault might be hers.

(ii) This line shows that Anne really considered her diary as a friend whom she could trust and narrate all her stories to. She did not want just a diary in which she could write down the facts like others did. She considered it as her friend and named her Kitty.

(iii) This statement shows that Anne was a fun-loving person. She was witty and knew how to present things in a funny way. She narrated this incident with a lot of fun. The use of 'plunked down' shows her sense of humour.

(iv) This statement shows that she had an opinion on everything. She thought that a quarter of her class was full of dummies, signifying that she herself was intelligent enough to make it to the next class. She thought of teachers as the most unpredictable creatures on earth because nobody could say which students they would fail and which students would be passed on to the next class.

(v) This statement shows that Anne knew a lot about writing. She was given the task of writing an essay as a punishment. She took it on with full vigour. She did not want to write it like others who merely left big spaces between the words to make the essay look voluminous. She knew that the trick was to come up with a convincing argument to prove the necessity of talking. She was different in her approach from everybody else.

(I.) Match the compound words under 'A' with their meanings under 'B'. Use each in sentence.

A	B
1. Heartbreaking	– obeying and respecting the law
2. Homesick	– think about pleasant things, forgetting about the present
3. Blockhead	– something produced by a person, machine or organisation
4. Law-abiding	– producing great sadness
5. Overdo	– an occasion when vehicles/machines stop working
6. Daydream	– an informal word which means a very stupid person

7. Breakdown	– missing home and family very much
8. Output	– do something to an excessive degree

Solution :

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1. Heartbreaking	– producing great sadness
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(II.) 2. Now find the sentences in the lesson that have the phrasal verbs given below. Match them with their meanings.

(i)	plunge in	– speak or write without focus
(ii)	kept back	– stay indoors
(iii)	move up	– make (them) remain quiet
(iv)	ramble on	– have a good relationship with
(v)	get along with	– give an assignment (home work) to a person authority (the teacher)
(vi)	calm down	– compensate
(vii)	stay in	– go straight to the topic
(viii)	make up for	– go to the next grade
(ix)	hand in	– not promoted

Solution :

(i) plunge in - go straight to the topic

Since no one would understand a word of my stories to Kitty if I were to plunge right in, I'd better provide a brief sketch of my life, much as I dislike doing so.

(ii) kept back - not promoted

The reason, of course, is the forthcoming meeting in which the teachers decide who'll move up to the next form and who'll be kept back.

(iii) move up - go to the next grade

The reason, of course, is the forthcoming meeting in which the teachers decide who'll move up to the next form and who'll be kept back.

(iv) ramble on - speak or write without focus

Anyone could ramble on and leave big spaces between the words, but the trick was to come up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking.

(v) get along with - have a good relationship with

I get along pretty well with all my teachers.

(vi) calm down - make (them) remain quite

Even G.'s pleading advances and my angry outbursts can't calm them down.

(vii) stay in - stay indoors

I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out.

(viii) make up for - compensate

This birthday celebration in 1942 was intended to make up for the other.

(ix) hand in - give an assignment (homework) to a person in authority (the teacher)

I handed it in, and Mr Keesing had nothing to complain about for two whole lessons.

(III.) 1. Here are a few sentences from the text which have idiomatic expressions. Can you say what each means? (You might want to consult a dictionary first.)

(i) Our entire class is *quaking in its boots*.

Solution : Our entire class is *quaking in its boots*. Shaking with fear and nervousness

(ii) Until then, we keep telling each other *not to lose heart*.

Solution : Until then, we keep telling each other *not to lose heart*. Not to lose hope

(iii) Mr Keeping was annoyed with me *for ages* because I talked so much.

Solution : Mr. Keeping was annoyed with me *for ages* because I talked so much. Since a long time

(iv) Mr Keeping was trying to play a joke on me with this ridiculous subject, but I'd make sure *the joke was on him*.

Solution : Mr. Keeping was trying to play a joke on me with this ridiculous subject, but I'd make sure *the joke was on him*. He was outwitted by her

2. Here are a few more idiomatic expressions that occur in the text. Try to use them in sentences of your own.

(i) caught my eye	(iii) laugh ourselves silly
(ii) he'd had enough	(iv) can't bring myself to

Solution :

(i) caught my eye

A small red car passing by caught my eye.

(ii) he'd had enough

Tom had a hard time raising enough money build the orphanage he'd promised to build.

(iv) laugh ourselves silly

One girl said something funny, and we laughed ourselves silly.

(v) can't bring myself to

I can't bring myself to eat anything but chocolates.

(IV.) You have read the expression 'not to lose heart' in this text. Now find out the meanings of the following expressions using the word 'heart'. Use each of them in a sentence of your own.

1. break somebody's heart

2. close/dear to heart

3. from the (bottom of your) heart

4. have a heart

5. have a heart of stone
6. your heart goes out to somebody

Solution :

1. break somebody's heart – to upset somebody deeply

It has unfortunately become very easy these days to break somebody's heart.

2. close/dear to heart – something or someone who is near and close to you
The drawing given to me by my little daughter is very close to my heart.

3. from the (bottom of your) heart – genuinely meaning or feeling something
He loved his son from the bottom of his heart.

4. have a heart – to evoke the feeling to help someone in distress
The poor beggar asked the rich man to have a heart and give him something to eat.

5. have a heart of stone – to not feel anything or any sentiment
The cruel landlady has a heart of stone as she beats up her children.

6. your heart goes out to somebody – to sympathies with someone else and understand his feelings and distress
My heart goes out to the little girl who lost both her parents in a car accident.

(V.) 1. Make a list of the contracted forms in the text. Rewrite them as full forms of two words.

For example:

I've = I have

2. We have seen that some contracted forms can stand for two different full forms:

I'd = I had or I would

Find in the text the contracted forms that stand for two different full forms, and say what these are.

Solution :

- (i) I've – I have

- (ii) Doesn't – does not
 - (iii) Won't – would not
 - (iv) I'm – I am
 - (v) Don't – do not
 - (vi) Can't – cannot
 - (vii) it's – it is
 - (viii) That's – that is
 - (ix) I'd – I would
 - (x) Didn't – did not
 - (xi) Who'll – who will
 - (xii) You're – You are
 - (xiii) We'll – We will
 - (xiv) There's – there is
 - (xv) He'd – he had
 - (xvi) Who's – who is
 - (xvii) Haven't – have not
- 2 (i) I'd – I had or I would
- (ii) He'd – He had or he would

