

## CLASS – X (ENGLISH) HANDOUT

### FIRST FLIGHT.....LESSON-4 “ FROM THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK”

#### MODULE - 2 / 2

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#### CONCEPT AND BRIEF OF THE LESSON

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Anne’s diary is a remarkable account of the last two years in the life of a thirteen year old Jewish girl forced to live in hiding in Amsterdam, during World War 11. The diary contains her innermost thoughts, her beliefs, her moods, her observations on people around her. Her diary contains all her suppressed anger, her frustrations, her mature thoughts about war, her sympathy for her fellow Jews, her love of nature etc. It reveals all the facts of her personality and her deepest emotions. In fact, without the diary, Anne may not have survived in the horrible confinement they suffered for more than two years. The diary fulfilled her need to write and in fact made her famous after her death.

In Holland, Anne was sent to Montessori nursery school. She had Mrs. Kuperus, the headmistress, as her teacher in sixth form who even cried at the time of farewell. In 1941, the author’s birthday couldn’t be celebrated well because her grandmother fell ill and underwent an operation. Unfortunately, her grandmother left them in June 1942. Ann missed her grandmother more than anyone else.

On June 20, 1942, Anne begins writing in her diary addressing it as friend “Kitty”. She mentions how her entire class is nervous about their result. It is unpredictable and will be decided by a meeting of teachers in which they will select students to be moved to next class or kept back. Many students were making bets. They kept on saying to each other, ‘I’m not going to pass!’ While others would console them and say, ‘yes, you would. According to Anne, about a

quarter of class should not be allowed to pass because they hardly responded to take part in any of the activities; she refers to them as 'dummies'. But this may not be the case because teachers' decisions can't be predicted.

Anne tells how she has a great relationship with all her teachers except the Maths professor. He was constantly irritated by the author's talkativeness. Despite several warnings, Anne did not stop talking in his classes which prompted him to give her extra home work as punishment. The first one was to write an essay on 'chatterbox' which she thought was a weird topic to write on because what would one write about that. She wanted to present concrete arguments in support of talking. She mentioned that she would try to be better herself as a student but talking is something that can't be eliminated completely. This is because she got it as an inherited trait from her mother and this is how she ended up writing three pages on the topic.

The professor found Anne's arguments to be amusing but when she did not stop talking in the next lesson also, he gave her yet another assignment as punishment. The topic was 'an incorrigible chatterbox'. But, Anne did not stop her habit. When the professor lost his patience, he handed her yet another assignment as punishment on the topic 'Quack, Quack, Quack, said Mistress chatterbox'. When the professor scolded her for the third time and punished her, the whole class started laughing. As a result, she had to pretend to be amused too. The whole assignment scenario was to make Anne feel ashamed but she made sure that she would give an effective reply.

She finally wrote her third assignment in the form of a poem. She wrote a satire that a father swan bit his three baby ducklings to death because of their noisy nature. To her good luck, the professor took it lightly. He recited the entire poem in front of the students while giving his own remarks simultaneously. The author being fortunate enough, talked uninterruptedly after this incident without any further home work as punishment. Also, Mr. Keesing, the professor started cracking jokes every now and then in the class.

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