

CLASS – X (ENGLISH) HANDOUT

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

MODULE 1 / 2

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CONCEPT AND BRIEF OF THE LESSON

Anne Frank was a German-born Jewish girl who wrote while in hiding with her family and four friends in Amsterdam during the German occupation of the Netherlands in World War II. Her family had moved to Amsterdam after the Nazis gained power in Germany but were trapped when the Nazi occupation extended the Netherlands. As persecution against the Jews population increased, the family went into hiding in 1942 in hidden rooms in her father Otto Frank's office building. After two years in hiding, the group was betrayed and transported to the concentration camp system where Anne Frank died within days of her sister, Margot Frank. Her father Otto Frank, the only survivor of the group, returned to Amsterdam after the war ended, to find that her diary had been saved. Convinced that it was a unique record, he took action to have it published in English under the name “ The Diary Of a Young Girl “.

On Sunday, June 12, 1942, one of the presents Anne received on her 13th birthday, was a diary. Her first entry reads ‘ I hope I'll be able to confide everything to you, as I have never been able to confide in anyone, and I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support’. The author felt that it's strange and unusual for her to write in a diary about her feelings and experiences because it was the first time she was doing it and no one would be interested in reading about a young school going girl's past. But she continued because there were lots

of thoughts she had been holding on to lately and she needed to get them off her mind.

Anne writes “ paper has more patience than people”. Anne felt that paper had much more capacity to absorb thoughts than people. People have low patience levels but a piece of paper being a non-living thing would not refuse from absorbing her thoughts.

“ Let me put it more clearly, since no one will believe that a thirteen-year old girl is completely alone in the world. And I am not. I have loving parents and a sixteen-year old sister, and there are about thirty people I can call friends. On the surface I seem to have everything, except my one true friend. I want the diary to be my friend, and I’m going to call this friend ‘Kitty’. 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’.

Anne refers to her father as the most lovable father one could get. Her father married her mother when he was 36 and she was 25. She and her sister Margot were born in Frankfurt. As soon as Anne turned 4, her father moved to Holland followed by her mother, while both the sisters stayed with their grandmother. Margot was also sent to Holland in December, followed by Ann in February, who was brought as a birthday gift.

Anne writes ‘Grandma died in January 1942. No one knows how often I think of her and still love her. This birthday celebration in 1942 was intended to make up for the other, and Grandma’s candle was lit along with the rest.
