Diary of Anne Frank - July 8, 1942

Credits:

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See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
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Questions 2 Ponder

Why Did Anne Frank Go into Hiding?

On the 5th of July, 1942, Anne Frank's sister Margot received a very distressing letter. The Nazis who were occupying The Netherlands had selected her to work in a forced-labor camp.

Margot had to report to Amsterdam's central train station, in ten days, or the entire Frank family would be arrested.

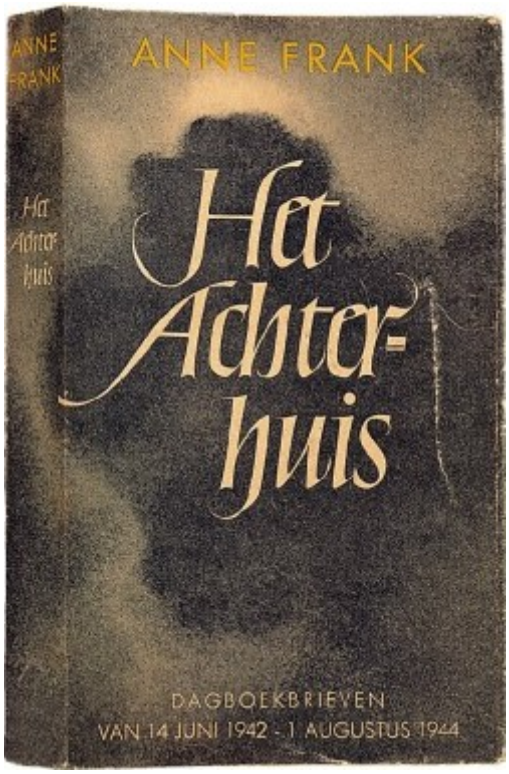
Because Otto Frank had been preparing "The Annex," to serve as his family's hiding place, the Frank family left their home and went to the annex three days after Margot received her letter.

How did advanced planning help the Frank family to move from their Amsterdam home to their Amsterdam hiding place?

Do you think the Frank family might have been placed on a Gestapo list when Margot didn't report to the train station, as ordered, and the family could not be found (to be arrested)? Explain your answer.

The Frank family was betrayed, which caused their arrest and deportation to Nazi concentration camps. What would cause someone to betray a family who was simply trying to stay together and to stay alive?

Why Did Anne Frank's Father Publish Her Secret Diary?



This image depicts the original cover of *Het Achterhuis* ("The Back House"), the first publication of "The Diary of Anne Frank," released (in The Netherlands) on the 25th of June, 1947.

When Anne Frank writes in her diary, which she has named “Kitty,” she expects to tell all her secrets to someone who will never share them. After Anne and her family were arrested, the diary stayed behind in “The Annex,” the name of the Frank family’s hiding place.

Miep Gies, who found the diary and kept it safely hidden during the remainder of the war, gave the diary to Otto Frank, Anne’s father, after the war was over.

After he read his daughter’s words, Otto decided to publish the diary. He was encouraged to do that by many of his friends. It first appeared in Dutch - on June 25, 1947 - then in German, then in English (as “The Diary of a Young Girl”).

After he published the diary, Otto Frank heard from many children around the world. For the rest of his life, until his death in 1980, he dedicated himself to helping children and answering their many questions about his daughter.

Anne expected that her words would only be known to her, but because her father published the diary, her words have been read by millions of people around the world. Did Anne’s father do the right thing by publishing her diary? Why, or why not?

If Anne’s words had remained unpublished, how would anyone have known what it was like for her to lived in the cramped space the Franks called “The Annex?”

If Anne were able to answer the question - are you happy your Dad published your diary? - how do you think she would respond?