

- 42 **Peter.** I want to see something now . . . Not a thousand years from now! [*He goes over, sitting down again on the cot.*]
- 43 **Anne.** But, Peter, if you'd only look at it as part of a great pattern . . . that we're just a little minute in the life . . . [*She breaks off.*] Listen to us, going at each other like a couple of stupid grownups! Look at the sky now. Isn't it lovely? [*She holds out her hand to him. Peter takes it and rises, standing with her at the window looking out, his arms around her.*] Some day, when we're outside again, I'm going to . . .
- 44 [*She breaks off as she hears the sound of a car, its brakes squealing as it comes to a sudden stop. The people in the other rooms also become aware of the sound. They listen tensely. Another car roars up to a screeching stop. Anne and Peter come from Peter's room. Mr. and Mrs. Van Daan creep down the stairs. Dussel comes out from his room. Everyone is listening, hardly breathing. A doorbell clangs again and again in the building below. Mr. Frank starts quietly down the steps to the door. Dussel and Peter follow him. The others stand rigid, waiting, terrified.*]
- 45 [*In a few seconds Dussel comes stumbling back up the steps. He shakes off Peter's help and goes to his room. Mr. Frank bolts the door below, and comes slowly back up the steps. Their eyes are all on him as he stands there for a minute. They realize that what they feared has happened. Mrs. Van Daan starts to whimper. Mr. Van Daan puts her gently in a chair; and then hurries off up the stairs to their room to collect their things. Peter goes to comfort his mother. There is a sound of violent pounding on a door below.*]
- 46 **Mr. Frank.** [*Quietly*] For the past two years we have lived in fear. Now we can live in hope.
- 47 [*The pounding below becomes more insistent. There are muffled sounds of voices, shouting commands.*]
- 48 **Men's Voices.** *Auf machen! Da drinnen! Auf machen! Schnell! Schnell! Schnell!*¹⁴ etc., etc.
- 49 [*The street door below is forced open. We hear the heavy tread of footsteps coming up. Mr. Frank gets two school bags from the shelves, and gives one to Anne and the other to Margot. He goes to get a bag for Mrs. Frank. The sound of feet coming up grows louder. Peter comes to Anne, kissing her good-bye, then he goes to his room to collect his things. The buzzer of their door starts to ring. Mr. Frank brings Mrs. Frank a bag. They stand together, waiting. We hear the thud of gun butts on the door, trying to break it down.*]

14. **Auf machen! . . . Schnell!**
German for "Open up, you in there, open up, quick, quick, quick!"

- 50 *Anne stands, holding her school satchel, looking over at her father and mother with a soft, reassuring smile. She is no longer a child, but a woman with courage to meet whatever lies ahead.*
- 51 *The lights dim out. The curtain falls on the scene. We hear a mighty crash as the door is shattered. After a second Anne's Voice is heard.]*
- 52 **Anne's Voice.** And so it seems our stay here is over. They are waiting for us now. They've allowed us five minutes to get our things. We can each take a bag and whatever it will hold of clothing. Nothing else. So, dear Diary, that means I must leave you behind. Good-bye for a while. P.S. Please, please, Miep, or Mr. Kraler, or anyone else. If you should find this diary, will you please keep it safe for me, because some day I hope . . .
- 53 *[Her voice stops abruptly. There is silence. After a second the curtain rises.]*



Scene 5

- 1 *[It is again the afternoon in November, 1945. The rooms are as we saw them in the first scene. Mr. Kraler has joined Miep and Mr. Frank. There are coffee cups on the table. We see a great change in Mr. Frank. He is calm now. His bitterness is gone. He slowly turns a few pages of the diary. They are blank.]*
- 2 **Mr. Frank.** No more. *[He closes the diary and puts it down on the couch beside him.]*
- 3 **Miep.** I'd gone to the country to find food. When I got back the block was surrounded by police . . .
- 4 **Mr. Kraler.** We made it our business to learn how they knew. It was the thief . . . the thief who told them.
- 5 *[Miep goes up to the gas burner, bringing back a pot of coffee.]*
- 6 **Mr. Frank.** *[After a pause]* It seems strange to say this, that anyone could be happy in a concentration camp. But Anne was happy in the camp in Holland where they first took us. After two years of being shut up in these rooms, she could be out . . . out in the sunshine and the fresh air that she loved.
- 7 **Miep.** *[Offering the coffee to Mr. Frank]* A little more?
- 8 **Mr. Frank.** *[Holding out his cup to her]* The news of the war was good. The British and Americans were sweeping through France. We felt sure that they would get to us in time. In

September we were told that we were to be shipped to Poland . . . The men to one camp. The women to another. I was sent to Auschwitz.¹⁵ They went to Belsen.¹⁶ In January we were freed, the few of us who were left. The war wasn't yet over, so it took us a long time to get home. We'd be sent here and there behind the lines where we'd be safe. Each time our train would stop . . . at a siding, or a crossing . . . we'd all get out and go from group to group . . . Where were you? Were you at Belsen? At Buchenwald?¹⁷ At Mauthausen? Is it possible that you knew my wife? Did you ever see my husband? My son? My daughter? That's how I found out about my wife's death . . . of Margot, the Van Daans . . . Dussel. But Anne . . . I still hoped . . . Yesterday I went to Rotterdam. I'd heard of a woman there . . . She'd been in Belsen with Anne . . . I know now.

- 9 [He picks up the diary again, and turns the pages back to find a certain passage. As he finds it we hear Anne's Voice.]
- 10 **Anne's Voice.** In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart. [Mr. Frank *slowly closes the diary.*]
- 11 **Mr. Frank.** She puts me to shame.
- 12 [They are silent.]

NOTES

15. **Auschwitz** (OWSH vihts) Nazi concentration camp in Poland at which approximately 1.1 million Jews were murdered.
16. **Belsen** (BEL zuhn) village in Germany that, with the village of Bergen, was the site of Bergen-Belsen, a Nazi concentration camp; another name for this camp.
17. **Buchenwald** (BOO kuhn wawld) Nazi concentration camp in central Germany.

Comprehension Check

Complete the following items after you finish your first read.

 **Notebook** Respond to the questions.

1. How long have the characters been in hiding at the beginning of Act II?
2. What happens to Mr. Kraler that prevents him from coming to the attic?
3. What does Anne give Peter to decorate his room?
4. What does Mr. Van Daan do that upsets the others?
5. At the end of the war, what happened to all the members of the Frank family except Mr. Frank?
6. Write a summary of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Act II.

RESEARCH

Research to Clarify Choose at least one unfamiliar detail from the text. Briefly research that detail. In what way does the information you learned shed light on an aspect of the play?

Research to Explore Choose something that interested you from the text, and formulate a research question you might use to learn more about it.