**Anna at War**

**Reading Activities**

**by Helen Peters**

**Predicting** (what you think something may be about)

Before reading this book, look at the front cover, the illustrations, scan read through the book and read the blurb on the back cover.

Then become a prediction detective:

In your jotter make predictions about the Characters, Events and Settings in your book. Use 3 headings, listed *Characters*, *Events* and *Settings* in your jotter. Then write your predictions under these headings and provide evidence why you have made these predictions (you could use page numbers of things you have linked to your opinion or perhaps connections you have made to other texts or knowledge you have read or learned about.)

**Summarising**

Use a page at the back of your jotter and write and then underline the heading *Summary.*

Use this page to record the main points of each chapter.

**Chapter 1 -** Read this chapter with your group and discuss the following questions

Answer the following questions in sentences in your jotter.

1. What was interesting about Daniel’s granny?
2. Why do you think MI5 (British Secret Service Agency) had files on Daniel’s granny?
3. Why did Daniel’s granny (Anna) think that it was important to tell her story to Daniel?

**Chapters 2 & 3** - Open Up and The Night of The Broken Glass

1. What year does Anna’s story begin in?
2. What kind of changes had Anna noticed in her life at this time?
3. Why did Anna’s parents believe that they were ‘safe’ from the Nazis doing anything to them?
4. What woke Anna up?
5. What onomatopoeic words does the author use at the top of page13 to describe the noise the Nazi soldiers are making and describe the effect they had on you as you were reading?
6. Why was Anna’s dad not with them?
7. In your own words use adjectives (describing words) to describe how you think Anna must have felt during the night the Nazis destroyed her home?

Follow Up Task

\*Complete your word search.

**Chapters 4 & 5** - What about Mitzi and Jews are not Wanted

1. Where had Anna’s father been taken?
2. Using ICT research ‘*Kristallnacht’* and write a small description of what it was.
3. What were some of the other horrible things the Nazis had done that Anna saw as she walked in her town?
4. What did Anna save from her Uncle’s flat before the Nazi soldier took it over?
5. Why couldn’t Jewish children attend school any longer and what did Anna use her time to learn instead?
6. Note down some of the ways Jewish people were now restricted in their daily lives.
7. How does the author tell us that Anna’s father had been very badly treated by the Nazis when he was in the concentration camp?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

\* Use ICT to quickly research what Morse Code is and discuss with a partner. Then use the given sheet to make up secret codes for your partner and swap with each other and try to work them out.

**Chapters 6 & 7** - Anna Must Go & One Small Suitcase

1. What did the Nazis do to all Jewish Businesses?
2. Why was it very difficult for Anna’s family to leave Germany?
3. What was the letter about that Anna’s mother had received?
4. Imagine you were Anna in this situation, describe how you think you would have felt?
5. What was Anna and the other children allowed to take with them on the train?
6. Describe how you think Anna’s parents must have felt sending her on her own to strangers in a different country?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Imagine you are Anna, being sent away on your own to another country to live with strangers. Write a letter home to your parents.

**Chapters 11, 12 & 13**

1. On page 51 how does the author infer(hint) that the train is a very scary place for the children to be in?
2. How would you describe how the Nazi soldiers treated the children on the train?
3. Use 3 adjectives (describing words) to describe how the children must have felt when they crossed into the Dutch border.
4. Why do you think the children needed ‘papers’ for travelling to the U.K.?
5. If you were Anna, do you think you could have argued with adults to keep Ezra with you? Give reasons.

Follow Up Task

Illustrator- Think of an illustration that represents this chapter and note some of the key points of the chapter beside it.

**Chapters 14, 15 & 16**

1. Why do you think Anna ‘forced the image of her parents into a box’ when she thought of them?
2. What was different for Anna when she was given white bread to eat on the boat?
3. Describe how you think you would have felt being one of those children sitting on the platform waiting to meet their new foster parents.
4. Scan read through chapter 16 and note down as many words that the author has used to show that where Anna is going to be living is in the countryside.

Follow Up Task

Design a new front cover for this book. Remember to include the title, illustrations and the author’s name.

**Chapters 17, 18 & 19**

1. What do you think was Anna’s plan for her parents?
2. What were some of the new things Anna had learned recently since coming to England?
3. What inferences(hints) has the author used to let us know that Anna is a very clever girl?
4. What did Anna want Lord and Lady Hurtswood to do for her parents?
5. What happened to stop Anna’s plans happening for her parents?

Follow Up Task

Questioning

Think of five questions you would like to ask Anna and then swap with a partner and try to answer each other’s questions, as if you are Anna.

**Chapters 20, 21 & 22**

1. Describe Anna’s emotions after the dreadful news that her parents wouldn’t be able to join her in England.
2. Where had some of the other children been evacuated from that were staying in the village?
3. What was the tradition for children starting their first day in school in Germany at that time?
4. What nasty rumour (usually a mixture of truth/untruth, passed around by word of mouth) did Billy start spreading about Anna and why was it such a serious concern for Anna?
5. How does the author infer (hint) that Molly is jealous of Anna?
6. What good ‘news’ about school did Anna have to tell her parents in her next letter?

Follow Up Task

\*Complete your character/setting worksheet.

**Chapters 23 & 24**

1. Research what an Anderson shelter is and write a description in your jotter.
2. Why were people pleased that Winston Churchill had taken over as the Prime Minister of Britain?
3. Why did Anna have good reason to be frightened of the recent news of the Nazis?
4. Why could the nasty things that Billy was saying about Anna lead to horrible situations?
5. How do you think you would have felt if you were Anna after reading Billy’s notes about her?
6. What were a few of the horrible things Anna had experienced in Germany that made her believe that the Nazis were capable of anything?
7. Why had the village shops had their names blanked out?

Follow Up Task

\* Using ICT, research what an Anderson Shelter looked like and try and either draw one or recreate a model of one.

**Chapters 25 & 26**

1. What horrible thing had Molly done to Anna? Use WOW words to describe how you think Anna must have felt at this betrayal?
2. Why did a soldier come to the farm?
3. What suddenly had changed about the village?
4. Why did Anna think ‘there was only the English Channel between Hitler and us’?
5. What were the villagers now frightened of happening?

Follow Up Task

Connecting

Make self/text/world connections to the book and record your connections on your Make Connections Worksheet.

**Chapters 27 & 28**

1. What awful event happened as Anna, Molly and Frank were walking home from school?
2. Why would the German soldiers want to bomb the village’s ‘searchlight’?
3. What big surprise did the children get when they went into the barn to look for Clover?
4. Do you think the children should have started talking to the soldier or do you think they should have gone straight to their parents? Give reasons.
5. What happened to make Anna realise that the soldier is German?

Follow Up Task

Complete your Cause and Effect worksheet.

**Chapter 29 & 30**

1. What happened that stopped the children from reporting the German soldier in the barn?
2. Why do you think the German soldier has parachuted into this very quiet, rural village?
3. How do the children think the German soldier will be able to pass secret messages back to Germany about Winston Churchill’s visit ti the village?
4. What good idea did the children have that misled the soldier about which village and area of England he was in?
5. How must Anna have felt knowing that the German soldier knew she was German and that she was probably Jewish?
6. What did the German soldier have that was very worrying?

Follow Up Task

Research

Use ICT and research the story of Anne Frank.

**Chapters 31 & 32 & 33**

1. What effect does the opening sentence in Chapter 31 have ‘Fear shuddered through me like an electric shock’?
2. Do you think that the children should have told an adult about the German soldier? Give reasons.
3. How did the children hope to watch over the German soldier?
4. What advantages would it give the German Soldier to have extra light from a torch if Molly had been able to get him a battery?
5. How does the author let us know Anna is petrified (very scared) of having to watch the German soldier?
6. How did Anna manage to get herself ‘arrested’ by British soldiers?

Follow Up Activity

Complete your Book Title worksheet.

**Chapters 34, 35 & 36**

1. Why was it even more terrifying for Anna to be in a position where she was being interrogated?
2. Why was Anna so emotional when the Colonel was trying to find out from Anna why she had a gun?
3. Why did Anna and the children really not want to tell anyone about the German soldier?
4. What secret did the Colonel ask Anna to keep from Molly and Frank?
5. How does the author infer(hint) Anna is really always worried for her parent’s safety?

Follow Up Task

Complete your Jigsaw Character Worksheet.

**Chapters 37 & 38**

1. How must Anna have felt having to be nice to and help the German Soldier, after how the Nazi soldiers had treated her and her family in Germany?
2. What great idea did Anna have for the soldier to be able to have his letters returned to him secretly?
3. After what Anna had been through in Germany, what does it tell us about Anna’s character/personality that she is able to communicate with the Colonel and with the British Soldiers?
4. Why did Mr. Rives think that it wasn’t ‘ethical’ to use a child to help them find the German spies?
5. Why do you think the Colonel and Mr. Rivers knew so much about Anna?

Follow Up Task

Complete your favourite character worksheet.

**Chapters 39, 40 & 41**

1. How did the Colonel and Mr. Rivers actually know so much about Anna?
2. What proof did the men have that Anna genuinely wanted to help the British War Effort?
3. What evidence does the author give us to show us that Anna’s parents would be very proud of her actions to help the British War Effort?
4. What deal did Anna strike with the Colonel if she carried out the word with the German soldier?
5. List the positive things that Molly and Anna told each other.

Follow Up Task

Inferring

Complete your Character Trait Worksheet.

**Chapters 42, 43 & 44**

1. List the feelings that you think Anna and Molly would have felt when they had to take the letter to the German soldier.
2. Who was Anna surprised to see moving through one of the fields and why?
3. What effect does it have on you when the author keeps repeating the words ‘ calm down, Anna breathe’?
4. Describe what emotions Anna would have been feeling as she chased after the German soldier?

Follow Up Task

Summarising

Complete your summarising worksheet.

**Chapters 45, 46 & 47**

1. Provide your own opinion of what you think of Anna following the German soldier and trying to deal with him on her own, rather than telling an adult.
2. What information does the author give us that informs us that Anna is in a state of shock after her encounters with the German soldier?
3. What was really worrying and bothering Anna about her awful nightmares?
4. How did the Colonel make toast for Anna?
5. What was Peter Smith’s real name and what had he planned to do at Ashcombe House?
6. What special person was Anna, Molly and Frank introduced to and how do you think they would have felt?
7. Why did Mr. Rivers give Anna a card with his address on?

Follow Up Task

Questioning

Complete your wondering worksheet.

**Chapter 48 & 49**

1. How did Anna sort Billy Townsend out when he was tormenting her again about being a spy?
2. Who did Molly ask for help with money for the things her and Molly needed for Grammar School?
3. Why did Anna want to be a doctor where she was older?
4. Why was Anna so driven to study hard and do well?
5. What awful news did Anna receive in January 1946?
6. Why did Anna nearly not take her place at Cambridge University?
7. What advice did her Uncle Paul give her to change her mind about going to Cambridge?
8. Do you think Anna eventually went onto work for the Secret Services?

Follow Up Task

Scanning

Scan read through your book and identify 3 different settings and complete your Setting Worksheet.

**Chapter 50**

1. What had Anna chosen to do for her 90th birthday?
2. Describe the emotions you think Anna must have felt when she met Ezra Neumann as a grown up man?
3. What four special people did Anna want to honour?
4. What did Anna mean by her parents ‘giving her life twice over’?
5. What do you think the author’s purpose was by writing this book? Was she trying to teach/inform/persuade you? How do you know this?

Follow Up Task

Book Review

Write a review of Anna at War, using the headings below to guide you.

* Who and when
* Who wrote the book and when was it first published?
* Setting  
  Where and when does the story take place?
* Plot  
  What happens? Was it believable? Was it interesting?
* Characters  
  Who are the main characters? Who did you like most? Why?
* Reading  
  Was the book easy to get into? What do you think about the style it is written in? What kind of readers would like this book?
* Your opinion  
  What did you like or dislike about this book? How would you rate it? Brilliant? Good? Average? Terrible?