

## Questions

1. Why do you think Anne Frank is so popular?

-Varied answers: Anne Frank was a young teen, like many of us. She had been thrust into a gruesome world, where people were trying to kill her. Many young people can relate to her. And others sympathize with her situation. She died young, and she never got the chance to do some things that we take for granted today. And she also is prominent in the Holocaust. She did not deserve to die, as she was an innocent, a young girl who Hitler believed should die.

2. What is the significance of her quote?

-She is being faced with such cruelty by the people around her. Yet there are people who help her and her family, who support her, who don't believe in such cruelty and find it wrong. She is being hunted down by those who want to kill her. Many in her situation would be pessimistic, but she isn't. She hopes for the day she is free, and has faith in humanity when so many wouldn't.

3. Do you think you could have faith in humanity, even in the environment Anne was in?

-Varied answers: No, I could not. If I were to be in the environment she was in, being hunted down by SS soldiers, I couldn't be so optimistic. I'd fear for humanity in such times, seeing such destruction and death toll.

4. Do you think if Hitler had been accepted into art school, history would have ended differently?

-Varied answers: But yes, history most likely would be different. Had he never joined the army, his hatred for the Treaty of Versailles would probably be there, but he probably wouldn't have done anything about it. His hatred of Jews would probably not have grown the way it did if he was an artist. Hitler would have been an artist. Life would be different. The Holocaust probably wouldn't have happened, millions wouldn't have died, World War II wouldn't have happened.

5. Based on your knowledge, why was the Treaty of Versailles upsetting Germany?

-The Treaty of Versailles made Germany give up millions of dollars to the victors and give up its land. With money due, inflation was rising in Germany, and the people hated their government not for doing anything. Unemployment rose, and the people of Germany went hungry.

6. Why do you think the Germans would allow such things to happen?

-The people were desperate. Many joined the Nazi party, not just to support him, but for money. Many followed him, because they wanted change. They were scared for communism, so they supported the Nazi party instead. Popularity rose. Regarding the Holocaust, many claim to not have known. But with such things happening, the odds of that are relatively low. Many stood by, as they were too scared to do anything else.

7. Why do you think he committed suicide?

-He committed suicide as to avoid capture.

8. What does Hitler's leadership and his role in society teach us?

-His role in society teaches us the dangers of power. He was able to take so much power when the people were desperate. It was an awful idea, and he was allowed to go through with the Holocaust, kill millions, spreading fear and terror to the Jews. Some people believe him insane, as his violent hatred of Jews eventually made him mad. Yet he was still able to murder so many. No matter how bad the situation is, we should never give power to one person.

9. Why would a Nazi party member save all those Jews?

-Varied answers: Not all Nazis were absolutely awful people. Oskar was one of those good people who found that persecution of Jews wrong, and did all he could to stop the murder of them. There is good in people.

10. Would you have done the same as Oskar?

-Varied answers: I would have tried, but I don't think I would have been able to do so secretly the way he did. Many people were scared of standing up, and several did not stand up for the Jews. Even if they felt

Hitler was wrong. They were scared. Oskar and the rest of the rescuers helped in any way, most risking their lives. But they believed in helping Jews. We all do today, but in the matter of the time period, I honestly don't think I would have. I would have wanted to, but I don't think I would have ended up doing so.

11. Do you think FDR was a good president? Use your knowledge and evidence from the text to support your answer.

-Varied answers: Many consider him a good president (some consider him one of the best), as he did what he could during the Great Depression and during World War II. Many were against war, understandably, however, had the US not joined the war, it might have ended a lot differently. He introduced the New Deal, a program still used today in the US (social security being one of them). The programs themselves were controversial, as they added a lot of money to the national debt, however doing nothing, would have been worse. So everyone has their own opinion regarding FDR, but he did make several changes in the presidency and the US we cannot ignore.

12. Why are these four people significant? Are they similar? And how are they different?

-These four people all had a different role in society. They all made lasting impressions on the world that we don't forget. They are all different, each with their own story. Both Hitler and Schindler were part of Germany and the Nazi party. Anne Frank was just a girl, a fifteen year old, who was innocent and had barely lived her life. However, FDR was an accomplished man who held a long presidency and made real changes. Hitler was his own person, an awful dictator who spread chaos and death. Oskar was a rescuer who used all his money to help Jews.

13. All four of these people served different roles during this time period. Which person would you most likely have been? And would you have done what they did?

-Varied answers: I think I most likely would have been a schoolgirl like Anne. I am not Jewish, but I think I would have been thrown in the setting of the war. Had I been president, I would have done what I thought best. Had I been Oskar, I would have tried to save the Jews. Had I been Anne, I would have used by time wisely, as best as I could. Had I been Hitler, well, I wouldn't have done a lot of the things he did.

14. If you could go back into any one of these four people's lives, and change something or do something different, what would you do?

-Varied answers: Ex: As Hitler, go back and try to get into art school.

15. Out of the four, who do you think is the most important? Who do we learn the most from? What do we learn from them?

-Varied answers: From Anne Frank, we learn to have optimism even in the face of adversity. From Oskar Schindler, we learn to do what's right, even when no one else is. From Hitler, we learn to fight back against what we think is wrong. We also learn that having too much power is dangerous. From FDR, we learn that change is possible. We learn that even with his disease, he was a good president (many consider him a favorite among all presidents). He was a face of optimism and change in the desperate United States, and unlike Hitler, he wasn't power hungry.

The question of who we learn the most from is opiniative. We learn a lot of what NOT to do from Hitler. Everyone has their own interpretation of what we learn from different figures of history.