

Grace L

“How will learning about her life (Anne Frank) and their life (the Promise teenagers-Yarko, Daniel, Mahmoud, Schlomo, Sanabel, Faraj, Moishe) change the way you live yours?”

Learning about the lives of both Anne Frank and the Promise teenagers, by reading books and watching movies and documentaries, it is obvious that they live in very difficult, very dangerous circumstances. Anne Frank spent the last years of her life, before being betrayed and thrown into a concentration camp, hiding in the secret Annex and dreading the day of discovery by the Nazi that may or may not happen, living in suspense, silence, and secrecy. The Promise teenagers also faced life-threatening conditions common in their hometown. Bomb threats, shootings, deaths, violence, clashes, fear, tears... all in your typical day as a citizen of Israel and as a refugee in Palestine.

However, these teenagers have more in common than having a very harsh life. What these people all have in common is their unusual ability to, despite the raging turmoil surrounding them, prevent despair from completely engulfing them. Although these teenagers faced one tragedy after another in the harsh conditions of their current circumstances, they each have a reason to live, a desire for peace, and a heart filled with the hope that life is not as hopeless as it seems. By doing so, instead of watching the destruction that surrounds them, they kept their eyes on the promises that they believe life still had for them.

For instance, Anne Frank, while living in a cooped up Secret Annex, expressed her hopes and dreams through her diary, and claims that she will never despair and instead, concentrate on the “good” in her life. Although she had a great struggle with her own family as well as the Vann Daans, although she was living in a time where Jews like her were being murdered in cold blood by her own townspeople, although she lived with the constant fear of being captured by the Nazis and put in a concentration camp, she still found the courage and strength that enabled her to live on, even after her death.

In another example, several decades after the horrors of the Holocaust, the Promise teenagers living in Israel and Palestine are right in the middle of a bitter, bloody feud caused by the fact that the Jews and the Arabs have a violent disagreement in land claims. “I’m telling you, this is our land,” says Mahmoud, a Palestinian boy, who contrasts the opinion of an Israeli teen who says, “We needed a home and this is our home.” The result is that “We spend all of our time blaming each other-who threw the first stone, who the first bullet...” says B.Z., the director of Promises.

Furthermore, each side has a history of bloodshed and lost lives because each side blamed the other for killing their loved ones. For instance Moishe, a Jewish boy living next to an Arab village, recalls that his best friend was killed by the Arabs. Also, a Palestinian boy living in the refugee camps mentions that his brother was shot and killed by an Israeli soldier. “This is how it goes on-you killed cousin, I killed your father, you killed my brother, I killed your cousin...” says Faraj, a Palestinian boy against the violence between Israel and Palestine, who adds “...we are a small tiny country making a huge big noise.”

Yet all the same, all of the Promise teenagers at some point wishes and hopes for peace between Israel and Palestine. Although they all have different opinions to how this peace is to be

achieved, it is evident that peace is so much desired by both the Israeli and the Palestinian. “She is calm on the surface, but there are tears in her heart.” “We did not choose politics. It was politics that chose us.” “If we can share the same plate, then why can’t we share the same planet?” “But when I met Yarko and Daniel and Hana, I realized that there are people who want peace.”

Because of the vast difference in opinions, Palestine and Israel have been disagreeing one way or another. However, there are teenagers now who are doing what they believe is the right thing to do in order to solve that disagreement. Despite the difficulties they face, they too, like Anne Frank, find the courage to live on, craving for that so desired freedom that is different than what the world they live on has to offer. “My dream is to be free and to meet Sanabel as an equal,” says Daniel of Israel, referring to his friend from Pakistan, who in turn says, “Through meeting Yarko and Daniel, I know I have a spirit just like you.”

What I can learn from these brave teenagers, Anne Frank and the children from the documentary Promises, is how to keep your principles despite the hardships you face. If I was in their position, I wonder, can I find the strength to live in spite of the hardships that they had to face on a regular basis? I can be a peace-lover, rebel, or someone who hides from it all, arguing that I wish to do so-and-so for my sake, or that I wish to do so-and-so for the sake of my country. However, as they all wish to do the former, to do whatever they can for their countries sakes, I admire the courage they all have, as it is not easy to be so self-sacrificing.

On the other hand, it is well worth it. Anne Frank’s wish, to “live after my death,” has been fulfilled. Her belief that “people are good at heart” is now admired, that she could think that way while living among her enemies. Can I think that way of my enemies? I seriously doubt it.

When I learn about the horrendous situations that these people faced, I realized how much my views have changed. At first, I couldn’t care less about Anne Frank, as I didn’t understand how a person could be famous simply by writing a diary. Now I realized that she was well-known not just because of her diary, but because of her courage that enabled her to rise above her problems.

Before watching the documentary Promises, I never realized just how critical the situation in Israel and Palestine was. Now that I’ve seen the different views shaped by different people, after seeing Israel and Palestine through the age of people that were once my age, I now know why the two countries have such a bloody rivalry. Had I never seen that documentary, I would have never understood the depth of the struggles that the civilians faced, the unthinkable reactions made by ordinary citizens given the right time and the right emotions.

Now, as I learned that it is possible to overcome your problems no matter how difficult they seem, I thank Anne Frank and the Promise teenagers for teaching me this valuable lesson. By learning this, I can change the way I live by attacking my problems with a new zest, as the problems I have is nothing compared to what Anne and the Promise teenagers had to face.

I sincerely hope that Israel and Palestine will receive the peace they so need, desire, and deserve. I honestly believe that someday, perhaps in our generation, they will receive that peace. When that day comes, as Faraj says, “...and we will all eat fish.” Anne Frank

By learning about Anne Frank's life, I learn about the misdeeds of mankind in recent years and how the Holocaust can be prevented, It also changes my outlook on life and the way I see things. It also shows the inextinguishable hope of the human spirit even in the grimmest situations.

In reading a certain lines in the Anne Frank's diary- 'Despite everything, I believe that people are really good at heart.'-and-'Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy.'- these quotes from the diary let me think optimistically and see everything in a whole new life. After all, she remained hopeful in the face of all the hard times she and her family had to go through. If she can be optimistic in those dark days, then I can be optimistic in everyday obstacles.

By learning about how the Holocaust started, the effects it had on the persecuted people, and the horrors that occurred during the Holocaust, I will learn how a second holocaust can be avoided. In learning about the past mistakes that humans have made, we will learn from them and have a greater chance of preventing them from ever happening again. We will never allow the persecution and systematic killing of innocent people again, nor will we ever permit wars that result in the deaths of thousands.

Victor Y

After watching "Promises" and reading The Diary of Anne Frank I've learned a incredible account of information. With this newfound information, I think I can change my life indefinitely.

One reason that these two things will change my life is while watching "Promises" when Sanabel said "I can walk outside at anytime and get shot." I realize how important my life is. I realized I should live my life to the fullest just like Sanabel did.

Another reason that these two things will change my life was when Faraj changed from hating Jews to wanting peace with them. When Faraj finally wanted peace this showed me how to move on instead consistently living my life a certain way. With this information I can achieve more and hopefully be a better person when I move on.

The last reason hat these two things will change my life is about Daniel and Yarko. Daniel and Yarko decided to take a chance and meet the Palestinians. Without them all seven of them wouldn't have gotten together and the movie wouldn't have been what it was. This showed me that being courageous can do and that I should try to show more courage.

Overall "Promises" and The Diary of Anne Frank changed my life in many ways. It helped me live my life to the fullest, how to move on, and finally to show more courage. "Promises" and The Diary of Anne Frank changed my life, did it change yours?

Claire L

“How will learning about Anne Frank’s life and the Promises teenagers’ lives change the way you live yours?”

By watching the movie Promises and studying Anne Frank, I can use what I learned from these protagonists to enrich my own. Anne Frank, a young Jewish girl who was in hiding for two years during World War II, Palestinian and Israeli teens living in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict today from the movie Promises, suffered the impact of political conflict. This affects their view in life, and learning about them affected mine too.

First, after watching Promises and studying Anne Frank, I realized how valuable peace is. Peace is a privilege that people don’t notice often and take it for granted. After learning about personal accounts that were involved in war, I finally saw how lucky I am to be living in a tranquil environment. If the Palestinians and Israelis don’t oppose each other, life for everyone is a lot less painful.

Also, I learned to value freedom. In both Anne Frank’s and the Promises teenagers’ lives, they were restrained from the freedom to go wherever they want. Anne Frank was confined in the small attic for two years. The teenagers had to cross through checkpoints to go about. I learned to respect freedom, and I don’t want to abuse this privilege.

In conclusion, by hearing the voices of youth who go through political conflict, I learned to see a new perspective in life. “You’ve spoken to the world and your voice will be heard,” Director of Promises, Justine Shapiro, says.

Amanda M

“How will learning about her life and their lives change the way you live yours?”

By watching “Promises” and “Anne Frank Remembered”, I have been introduced to the tragedies these people have been through. The most shocking and inspiring part about learning about their lives is the fact that Anne Frank and the Promises teenagers are real people, not just made up characters. I can relate most to Anne Frank and Sanabel who are both my age and given different circumstances., I could be living their very lives and experiencing the same losses they have. This has taught me to be thankful that I live in a free country, thankful that I have a great family, and thankful that I am alive.

While learning about Anne Frank, I tried to imagine how hard it was for her. Having been a 13-year-old girl, just like me, cooped up with about 7 other people in a small compacted area would be absolute torture. I admire her strength to stay calm, and even cheerful through such horrible times. I know if I were locked up for two years, I would be miserable, irritable and frightened. But instead, Anne made the best of her situation. When her father said, “For the past two years we have lived in fear, now we can live in hope.” on the day they were caught, I realized that Anne’s change for survival was slim to none. She had lost all control over her life, and could only pray she would live to see the next day. It is almost impossible to imagine how she felt inside that concentration camp. To see friends and family dying right before your eyes, and to

feel yourself withering away must have felt worse than death itself. It's amazing how Jews held onto hope and learned to accept that they were being killed because of their religion. Their only way of fighting back was by staying alive. I feel blessed to be alive and to live in a country where everyone is equal.

As we watched the "Promises" documentary, I was shocked to find such young children with such strong political opinions. Moishe, for example, had already decided he hated Arabs: "If I could make my own future, all the Arabs would fly away," said Moishe during one of his interviews. These opinions, without a doubt, formed under the influence of his parents' opinions as well as what he had picked up from television shows and such. If children such as Moishe, who have been taught to hate Arabs, grow older with this same hatred, they will continue to kill Arabs just as previous generations had done. This vicious circle of tradition must end; children should be shown a path to peace instead of hatred. As Faraj says, "This is how it goes on-you killed my cousin, I killed your father, you killed my brother, I killed your cousin." Children need to stop the madness! We children are the future of our world and with all of our parents leading us to believe in hating other people because they are different, our world will not improve. Sooner or later, maybe not our children's generation or even our grandchildren's generation, a time will come when Arabs and Jews will find peace as well as all the other countries at war.

What is ironic about war, is that the whole idea of fighting over land is actually very childish. If people of different races and religion can live together here in America, why can't they share a country? In Faraj's words, "If we can share the same plate, then why can't we share the same planet?" Faraj had said this in one of his interviews when he was actually living with a Jewish family and "sharing plates" with them. In a way, these teenagers from the documentary are more mature than their elders, in that they tried to understand each other by meeting each other and hanging out for a day. Instead of just sticking to their beliefs and never experiencing what it is like to live as an Arab or live as a Jew, these children took a risk and even made friends with people of the other religion. They found that "there are people who want peace," as Sanabel said in an interview.

Sanabel is a Palestinian Muslim living in the Deheishe Refugee Camp. Her father was jailed by Jews and was kept there without a trial. Soon after he was released, her brother was sent to jail. Similar to Anne Frank, Sanabel had overcome these great losses and decided to become friends with people of the same religion as those who jailed her father and brother. This was very hard for Sanabel but she definitely made the right decision. She realized that the children she was meeting were not the actual Jews who threw her father and brother in jail. However, even if the people she was meeting were the ones who had done this, it would be unfair to blame them for suffering. As Hana says, "We cannot say somebody suffers, so he can do anything." Ironically, Yarko and Daniel both became Israeli soldiers, and they told B.Z. that they did what they were told to do. They had no choice whether to kill an Arab or not, it was the government's choice. The "childish" government is the one to blame for all the suffering; all the losses.

In conclusion, these documentaries have had a major impact on my life. They have taught me to appreciate the life I was given, to learn and speak my mind about political and religious issues, and also to look at the big picture. What I mean by this is to take a step back and realize that although there is a lot of conflict in that "small tiny country making a huge big noise", as

Faraj says, it could easily be solved. If the government would just learn to forgive and forget, all the wounds would heal and eventually there would be peace.

Liana S

Through the past few weeks where I learned about Anne Frank's life and the lives of the teenagers in Promises, I have learned lessons that will change the way I live my life. I learned to enjoy and treasure even the smallest, least significant possessions I have. I learned to love a country full of no war, no conflict, and no persecution. I learned that having the right of free speech is a gift that is almost priceless.

First of all, learning to enjoy and treasure even the smallest, least significant possession is not very simple to do for very many people and even me. Through the rush of my daily life, I see, for example, a pencil. I didn't understand that this pencil if given to Anne Frank would be a great possession for her to write with in the Secret Annex.

Secondly, I learned to love a country full of no war, no conflict, and no persecution. In America, I am privileged to live in a community full of many different cultures and still not argue whose land this really belongs to. I have also learned that living in a place without any persecution is definitely a blessing. When I studied about Anne Frank's life in hiding and how much the Nazis hated the Jews, I am thankful for the beauty of living free.

Lastly, I learned that having the right of free speech is a gift that is almost priceless. In a life situation that all the teenagers of Promises live in, it is probably difficult to get their opinion out. Sometimes, some people even scorn it. For the new generation to have new ideas and opinions is something that should be valued. I am very happy to know that America supports this right. From now on, I hope to get my thoughts out to people, show them what I believe in, and try to change a part of the world.

Taehoon A

When I first finished reading Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl, I was struck by how eloquent and vivid her thirteen-year-old mind was. Later, after hearing of her death at Bergen-Belsen two years later, I was stunned at what a horror concentration camps were. Anne Frank's life, full of opportunity and hope, was tragically ended for one reason, so trivial as to be completely dumbfounding: her religion. Then I saw the documentary "Promises" and realized how similar Anne Frank's life and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was. If the Israelis and the Palestinians could settle their differences, which are incidental, they could bring so much promise into the war-torn Middle East.

Anne Frank's potential to be a great writer was snuffed out in the death camps of W.W.II Germany. How many other great minds have been lost there also? After learning of the horrors committed to Jews, Poles, Gypsies, and many other races for the simple reason that their religion was not Christian, or their race was not Aryan, I resolved never to let such a mindless racist scourge ever occur on this earth again. Before reading Anne Frank, I would have let it just pass by, never knowing how many lives were wasted. But now, I would resist with all my power against such an injustice to humanity.

In the Middle East, many conflicts are racially related: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Sunni-Shiite conflict, and even the US-Islamic extremist conflict all boils down to someone murdering someone else because they are Israeli, or Shiite, or Muslim. If you took away appearances and just put two kids from either side of any of these conflicts, such as Moishe and the Palestinian boy, they would not hate each other, not even realize what the other is their supposed mortal enemy. From seeing "Promises," I recognized how utterly dimwitted some conflicts were. If people could just settle their differences quickly and without bigotry, the world would be a much better place to live.

"She's calm on the surface. but there are tears in her heart." This quote could be used to describe either Anne Frank in the concentration camps, or Sanabel's mother. If Anne, a Jew, and Sanabel's mother, a Palestinian, are so similar, why can't we, in Faraj's words, make peace, "sit in the ocean, and all eat fish"? This is because we are biased. We need to erase this bigotry if we are to continue our lives in a peaceful world.

In conclusion, from Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl and "Promises," I learned that we all need to abandon unthinking racism and let opportunities and promise flower and grow. We all need to help ourselves to heal the fractures in the Middle East and the Jewish culture and live in peace.

Stephanie H

Anne Frank was extraordinary. From hearing about her unprecedented encounters, I have glimpsed at what it is like to stand up for what you believe in. There were numerous incidents in the diary and in the Anne Frank movie where Anne insisted her methods of approaching an incident. Being the unassertive person I can be, I can learn from her sense of leadership. From reading her diary, it is easier for me to comprehend her philosophy. The arguments, complaints, objections, and intimate thoughts in Anne's diary prove the model of a to-be leader. I can use her paradigm of life to use as a representation to how I should live mine.

Evan D

How will learning about her (Anne Frank's) and their (Yarko, Daniel, Faraj, Mahmoud, Sanabel, and Moishe's) lives change the way you live yours?

Anne Frank and the people from "Promises" have changed the way I live and think in the world today. In both cases, from the Second World War to the current constant fighting in Jerusalem, you can always find peace and hope in the midst of battle. Anne Frank, with her strong will, determination, and hope, always pulled through tough and bumpy times. She only ran into the worst of luck when the Nazi regime found her. The people from "Promises," with their courage to meet others from a different ethnicity, the ethnicity that most of their race is fighting against, along with their constant hope that they will soon be able to visit each other without having a pass to travel twenty minutes on a dusty road, is hopefully soon to be recognized and rewarded. These people have influenced many others, including me, to see the world in a different way.

All of their experiences have taught me to take nothing for granted. The computer I typed this essay on, the house I live in, the food I eat, they are all things I am fortunate to have. With Anne Frank, the movies and her diary showed that food was scarce. They all had their ration books, which limited them to a certain amount of beans, meat, eggs, vegetables, etc. I am hungry all the time, and I do not think I would survive if I was limited to a certain number of snacks each day. With "Promises," many of the families lived in refugee camps, with little electricity, and houses made out of stone. It probably became quite cold at night. Most of the computers that the subjects had were old, run-down, and probably quite slow compared to most of today's models. I've realized just how fortunate I am with what I have.

Also, I have realized how hard and cruel a war occurring on your own soil can be. Anne Frank had a massive, horrible war going on right near where she lived. One side absolutely disgusted Jews, which is the race she was. That side occupied where she lived, and the Nazis finally took her, along with many friends, relatives and acquaintances. The same thing is happening in the Israel/Palestine area. Israel is occupying Palestinian land, and Palestine is occupying Israel's land. The fighting is endless, and I could probably not stand all the bloodshed and carnage. Once again, I realized how fortunate I am; this time, to be on U.S. soil.

It is amazing how much everyone has put up with. I hope our situation will never become so horrible. Thanks to Otto Frank, who came up with the idea of distributing Anne's diary throughout the world, and B.Z.. for making the moving documentary, "Promises," I have learned so much from both points of view. I am now living my life enjoying what I have and appreciating our position so much more.

Marc B

How did learning about her life and the lives of the children in the movie Promises change yours?

The life of Anne Frank and the lives of the kids in "Promises" are very similar and very different. By learning about these lives of kids, my age, my life will be changed forever.

The life of Anne Frank is similar to the kid's lives in "Promises" in that they are all discriminated against. This has made a powerful statement to me, the fact that in America it is not permitted to discriminate based on race, gender, age, color, and religion. Unlike the cities that the "Promises" kids live in the hostilities are ever present. Like when one of the teenagers says "It's okay if the army misses at the shooting range, because they might hit an Arab." Sure, I get mad at some people but I do not wish death upon anyone of them. In Anne Frank's life, she does not discriminate against anyone but she is discriminated against. So the teens and Anne Frank are at the opposite ends of the spectrum.

Another thing that will change me is that even when these kids hate each other so much but they still meet each other and share their opinions. This truly living by the fact that "If you know all, you will see all," meaning that if you know all sides you will see all sides.

The third thing that I will carry away is the fact that if the kids, which will be the future, agree to meet and see each other's points then that is the first step towards peace. If the children of the world were to send one boy and one girl to represent their country every year then they will talk and see each other's points and that will lead to world peace.

Learning about these people was a great experience and I loved knowing that even during a war there can be a good side of everything. This shows that there is not just bad “stuff” in the world that we hear about everyday on the news, but there is good stuff happening in the world as well. Even though Anne Frank died she did not die in vain. She is one of the most influential people in the world and she has given the most valuable gift; she gave us information. That is how “Promises” and the life of Anne Frank have influenced my life forever.

Michelle Y

In Mr. DeLong’s class we were learning about Anne Frank, Israeli teenagers, and the Palestinian teenagers. After watching and learning about them, Mr. DeLong asked us, “How will learning about their lives change yours?” I really thought about that and here are my thoughts.

First of all, learning about Anne Frank taught me how cruel this world can be. I also learned we need to stop hating each other. In a documentary called, Anne Frank Remembered, one of the speakers said, “We have to get rid of all the hate we have”, and I agree because hate is what Hitler had that killed most of the Jews. Anne Frank changed my life by teaching me to be courageous and just enjoy life, it’s not that long.

Secondly, learning about the Israeli teens taught me there are still many conflicts going on in the world. Some people don’t know or don’t care about these conflicts. After watching Promises, I saw how much Yarko, Daniel, and Moishe are suffering. I just wanted to make the soldiers go away and let the two nations combine. Yarko and Daniel enjoyed playing with Faraj and Sanabel, so why can’t they just be together?

Faraj, Sanabel, and Muhammad are Palestinians who suffer with Yarko, Daniel, and Muhammad. Sanabel really wanted her voice to be heard. She really wants peace with both nations. She is like Anne Frank. They both want freedom. Learning about this conflict made me want to go save it. I feel really sorry for Faraj, Sanabel, Yarko, Daniel, Moishe, and Muhammad, because all they want is peace.

In conclusion, learning about their lives made me realize that I am lucky to be in a nice environment. I would really love to, somehow, solve this conflict. So now I ask you, how will learning about their lives change yours?

A.J.. C

How will learning about their lives help us to live ours?

After watching the Promises video and reading The Diary of Anne Frank I have realized the value of life and how quickly it can be cut short. I have learned how powerful emotions such as rage and anger can lead to death and destruction; and how stubbornness and boldness can kill all signs of hope for peace, between feuding people. Here are some ways that learning about their lives helped me to live mine.

In the Promises video I realized that both Israelis and Palestinians believed that the land was theirs. Instead of sharing the land they fight over it. This has been going on for quite some

time and has resulted in many, many deaths. Some realize that this bickering has accomplished nothing and try to do something about it. Faraj, after having lunch with an Israeli, says, "If we can share the same plate then why can't we share the same planet?" I believe that both sides are brought up believing that the land is theirs and theirs alone. Most people will not "turn the other cheek", instead, they retaliate and this is clearly shown in another quote from Faraj, "This is how it goes on - you killed my cousin, I killed your father, you killed my brother, I killed your cousin." War and fighting will never stop if this is how people act. Therefore war will never stop, it is human nature to fight back and get revenge on someone that has caused you pain. This teaches me to try and walk in someone else's shoes and see the conflict from their point of view. Doing this helps to resolve all kinds of conflicts peacefully, including small ones, which arise in everyday life.

Also I learned to stop playing the "blame game" so that conflicts can be resolved quickly. Anger and hatred overcome all other human emotions and therefore clear thinking and logic is blurred. When one is very angry, they will sometimes let the anger overcome them and that is when bad things happen. I realized that and decided to try my hardest to never let my anger take control of my decisions. This could save me from getting into a lot of trouble and that is why I decided to apply it to my everyday life.

In The Diary of Anne Frank I saw how quickly life could be stolen from innocent people and this encouraged me to always live my life to the fullest and try my hardest in everything I do. I can not stress enough on how much I have changed as a result of reading the book. It also made me think about how her conflicts, with her family and friends, took precious time from her short life. I realized that if my life was as short as Anne's then I would not want to spend on second of it in a fight with anyone. But even if I did live a long life I would still want to live it with as little conflict and stress as possible. I also thought about how Anne was just one of the millions of innocent children that were murdered as a result of W.W.II. Thinking about this angered me and I thought about what a heartless man could do such a thing to anyone. Hitler was just the opposite of what I am trying to be; he did not control his anger, he started a war that was based on anger towards the hatred of Jews and "unworthy" people. No person is unworthy of life, not even Hitler.

I have defiantly learned a lot about myself and about whom I want to grow up into. Reading The Diary of Anne Frank and watching "Promises" has helped to shape me into a better person.

Ayushi R

## A Change in My Life

"When I looked outside right into the depth of Nature and God, then I was happy, really happy." When Anne Frank was just as old as I am today, she wrote this thought into her diary as she lived in hiding from the Nazis. Even while being in such unimaginable difficulties, Anne always remained bright and cheerful through all the months she lived confined to a couple rooms called the "Secret Annex." After reading The Diary of Anne Frank, I understood about the willpower of a young girl. Many of her attributes stuck out and hung on to me, giving me a

realization of how much I could accomplish. I am young, but so what.

Soon after the reading of the diary, we watched the documentary, "Promises." I became aware of the fact that, we, people do not change; instead it is the times that change around us. Previously, Anne Frank's feelings and emotions could have been just like mine, they're not different because they are from 55 years ago. Now, the Palestinian and Israeli teenagers from the movie don't seem poles apart from each other or from me either, just because they live on the other side of the world. When I understood the fact that we are all the just like each other, I began to respect these teenagers from the past and present because of the way each handled the many problems he/she was forced to face.

"I've found that there is always some beauty left-in nature, sunshine, freedom, in yourself; these can all help you. Look at these things, then you find yourself again, and God, and then you regain your balance. And whoever is happy will make others happy too. He who has courage and faith will never perish in misery!" One of the main aftereffects of the book on me was the amount of hope Anne Frank always carried. In the course of W.W.II, Anne had spent many evenings along with the other seven members of the Secret Annex listening to numerous reports of bombings, wars, and raids. However, she was never disheartened.; she never gave up hope. Her spirit tank was always filled, supplying everyone else with the fuel to keep going as well. "The war goes on just the same, whether or not we choose to quarrel, or long for freedom and fresh air, and so we should try to make the best of our stay here." The great quantity of hope that Anne Frank always carried, knowing that the war would end someday, made me learn to never give up. There was no reason for me to become disheartened over small things like projects from school, when a teenager my age had faced more than I could imagine. In fact, I actually began to feel appreciative towards each new project i got. At school, i was learning about many new theorems, ideas, and more, as I had fun with my friends and met new people. cooped up in the attic of an office, Anne had none of this. If Anne had to go to school to do a project with her classmates, she would have felt privileged.

Anne Frank also had another attribute that I really admired in her: optimism. Even from the beginning, when she had to leave her school to go to the Jewish Second Secondary School, she never complained. In her diary, she explained how everything was all right. During hiding in the Secret Annex, she looked the occurrences in a positive way. Anne kept strong and always believe, even with all the food rations and restrictions by the Nazis, that they would all survive the war. She may have gone through some "periods of depression," but Anne was still able to see the light at the end of the tunnel. "Riches can all be lost, but that happiness in you own heart can only be veiled, and it will still bring you happiness again, as long as you live. As long as you can look fearlessly up into the heavens, as long as you know that you are pure within, and that you will still find happiness."

Now after so many years, there is still so much pain for Jewish people. W.W.II was a larger example, but wars over land and property still exist around the world.

From the documentary, "Promises," a young Jewish teenager living in Israel claims, "After the Holocaust, we needed a home and this is our home." Home. That is what everyone wants. The Jews and Arabs are constantly fighting over their homes. Moishe, the young teenager, has to protect his home from the opposing Arabs, like many others. Sanabel and her family have to live in the Deheishe Refugee Camp because they were kicked out of their home. Anger floods

the streets between the two people, and suicide bombers and other attacks always arise killing many on both sides. The hassle of going through checkpoints between the living quarters of the two people prevents each from meeting the other. However, the meetings could create many good relationships.

When we first met Faraj, a Palestinian Muslim from the Deheishe Refugee Camp, he was always stubborn on the fact that Jewish people should be kicked out. Ever since he was young, he had disliked Jews. When your best friend gets shot by a soldier for throwing a rock to defend his people, what else do you expect? Faraj never looked at the group of Arab terrorists as terrorists, they were an idol. However, through the movie "Promises," Faraj chose to meet other Jewish children his own age. Yarko and Daniel, who are secular Israelis, are "smuggled" past the checkpoint to meet Faraj. As soon as they meet, they become friends. Through games of soccer and Blind Man's Buff they realize that there is not much of a difference between them at all. Each becomes more understanding of the other's problems and they both realize that they are not the only ones going through difficulties against soldiers and raids. By the end of the day, Faraj breaks down into tears as he becomes conscious that this will probably be the only time he will be able to meet Yarko and Daniel. And this was the anti-Jewish Faraj.

One meeting between two kids of the future generation displayed so much of a difference. If the Israeli Jews and Palestinian Muslims realized that they are both going through the same difficulties, there could be peace and the possibilities of sharing the land. Like Yarko and Daniel justly put it, "I think this is our country and it's also theirs. In war both sides suffer. Maybe there's a winner but what's a winner? People on BOTH sides die. Both sides lose."

Even though I have the luxury of living in America, away from the problems these teenagers are facing, I have still learned many things from them. For one, do not judge people by their first appearances. Be peaceful and kind towards others; all people have a side of things. Not only did I learn about self-virtues but I acquired a broader knowledge to accept. In The Diary of Anne Frank as well in "Promises", teenagers went through rough times because of people who were against a type of race. These people didn't believe that some were worthy of living because their own race was more supreme. At other times, these people believed that others were not worthy of settling this land if people learned to accept others different from them.

Anne Frank's wish, "I want to go on living even after my death!", has really come true. Her diary is being read all over the world, hopefully spreading the message to accept others everywhere it travels. These conflicts between people exemplified in The Diary of Anne Frank and "Promises," show how the world had the problems then and still has them now. If our future generation learns from these, we can make a great change in our world. Like Faraj said, after living in America with his adopted Jewish mother, "If we can share the same plate, then why can't we share the same planet?"

Becca S

## How They Changed Me

Before reading "The Diary of Anne Frank," and watching the documentary "Promises," my opinions on life were much different. These two stories are really something, they're

amazing. It's unreal to me how wise these kids are at such young ages and how they look at life.

At first, I'll admit, I wasn't exactly excited when we were assigned "The Diary of Anne Frank." It was long and it seemed dull, at first that is. But once I started reading it, it was nearly impossible to put it down. Here was a young girl, fearing for her life reading every day, just because of her religious beliefs. After reading this incredible story, I had so many questions to ask. How could she possibly have an optimistic attitude after basically being forced into hiding? How could you have dealt with being shut out from the rest of the world for such a long time? I wish she were still alive to answer these questions.

Although she isn't, she has taught all her readers a valuable lesson: We should be more appreciative. We live in Almaden, a rich neighborhood. We all take many things for granted, every day of our lives, whether we want to admit it or not. Most of the kids at Bret Harte and in this community are somewhat wealthy and better off than most people. It forces me to ask myself, "What did I do to deserve this good life?" It's not fair. Why did the holocaust have to happen, why did 6 million innocent Jewish men, women, and children have to be murdered? I don't understand it. But it seems that all I can do is appreciate all that I have. I wish I could somehow 'turn back time,' and prevent the holocaust from happening, however, I cannot. All I can do is pray that something like this will never happen again, treasure all that I have been blessed with, and help out with others in need.

I am filled with guilt when I think about Anne. The worst part is, all, or most of us, who were not in the concentration camps, probably would not have done anything to prevent the killing of those in the camps. Then again, I am not sure if there is much we could have done. Suppose we lived in Nazi Germany during World War II. Would we have helped Jewish families out like Miep and Kraler did, or would we do nothing to help them at all? We wouldn't help them at all. And it is highly likely that we would have agreed with Hitler's ideas.

"Promises" has taught me a lot as well. To be honest, I probably ever would have bothered to learn anything about the conflict between Palestine and Israel. I just thought, "I don't live over there, so who cares?" But this movie made me realize, wow, that is so selfish to think. I should care, we all should. There is not much we can do about the situation, but it is important to know of these things. I'm not really into politics, I think they are boring to discuss. But this conflict was actually interesting to me. Two countries constantly fighting over whose land is who's. These kids in the movie lived 15 minutes away from each other, yet they never met one another, nor were they allowed to. At first I thought, "Why not just share the land, divide it in half?" But it's more difficult than that. According to the religious beliefs of the Arabs, the land is completely theirs. But according to the Israelis, the land is completely theirs as well. Maybe we will never know whom the land really does belong to, but I do admire these kids so much. To have to put with this constant fighting and killing, how can you live with that? Again, this documentary makes me appreciate everything. Americans aren't fighting over whose land is who's, or at least not to my knowledge they aren't. I wish that everyone in the world were at peace with one another, but is that really possible? It seems no matter what happens, two or more countries will always be conflicting with one another.

It is safe to say I probably cannot change what has happened and what goes in Palestine and Israel. And I most certainly cannot change the holocaust. I cannot change the fact that 6 million innocent Jews have been murdered and I cannot change Anne's death. But these two

amazing stories, "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "Promises," have taught me valuable life lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. We should always appreciate what we have, no matter what. We must prevent another even like the Holocaust from happening and we should all make peace with one another. Like Faraj, a cast member of the film "promises," says "We should all live in peace and eat fish together." No matter your race or your religion, we are all equals.

Chris H

Change or no change? That is the question. You can change the way you live your life by learning about other people's lives. Or you can keep your life the way it is. I am going to change my life. How? By not taking life for granted, using my time well, and putting more thought into what I do.

First, I need to not take life for granted because life can be taken away so quickly. In the story of Anne Frank, something happened and all but her dad were killed. I have to respect people more because i might not see them again. Just like 9/11 or Hurricane Katrina, life can be taken away within a couple of minutes or even seconds. Anne frank did not really have a good relationship with her mother or sister. If she was the only one wo survived, I think she would feel pretty bad. I would.

Second, I need to spend my time well. Life can be too short in some cases like the boy who was shot because he threw a rock. Even for Anne or her sister, they did not get a lot of time to accomplish things they probably would have liked to. Anything could happen in the next few days. A car crash, an earthquake. I could die. That is why I think that it is important to start spending my time better.

Third, I need to put more thought before I do something. i need to stop doing things that when I look back at it, I wish I hadn't done it. If the boy in "Promises" had thought before he threw a rock, he would probably be still alive. Same goes for me, I could do something dumb and I could be arrested or even die. If Otto Frank thought better before he decided to stay in Europe, his family could have been saved. That is why I think it is important to put more thought into my actions.

In conclusions, those are the three main reasons of how I am going to change my life after I learned about the lives of others. Those lives include Anne and her family's and also the kid's from "Promises."

Daniel R

Promises? Now exactly what does that mean? Well after learning about these young teenagers, i think I finally know what it means. well, after watching both of these documentaries "Promises" and "The Anne Frank Diary," I have realized how different people's lives are from one another, even though they can live within twenty miles of one another.

After learning about Anne Frank's life I realized how bad life was during W.W.II and how positive she stayed, even during the worst of times. After reading about Anne Frank, I realized that you need to stay positive all of the time in your life, no matter how bad the situation is. Also to never think your life stinks because being in hiding like Anne Frank is probably the w

worst ever.

Yarko, Daniel, Sanabel, Faraj, Mahmoud, Moishe, and Shlomo, these are the names of the eight teenagers whose lives have been changed dramatically because of the documentary "Promises." This fantastic documentary has not only changed the lives of the eight teenagers, but it has changed the lives of almost every single person, who has seen this documentary. After learning about them I have realized how different people's lives are that live within twenty miles of each other.

After learning about these young teenagers I have mainly realized how lucky I am to live where I live. Also, how lucky we are in America are because we are free; also that even when times are hard you need to stay positive and always try to look at the bright side. Also, whenever I feel that I have a rough life, I just stop and think about these teenagers and how rough their life is.

In conclusion, I'm glad we learned about these teenagers, because it changed the way I look at life, in a good way. Thank you, Mr. DeLong.

Jenny S

In The Diary of Anne Frank, Anne Frank explains her life during World War II in a diary. In the movie "Promises," seven kids living in or close to Jerusalem talk about life between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Reading this book and watching this movie changed my outlook on life. It made me appreciate what I have more, it made me try to be kinder to others, and it made me realize how many innocent people are suffering.

First of all, it made me realize how many innocent people, including children, in the world are suffering and being punished. Some of the children in "Promises," Sanabel and Faraj, are forced to live in a horrible refugee camp even though they didn't do anything wrong. They live there because they are Palestinian. In Anne Frank, Anne and her family are forced to go into hiding and then killed because they are Jewish. I realized that these people didn't do anything wrong, but are punished anyway, because of what they believe.

Secondly, it made me try to be kinder to others even though they may think and believe differently from me. When Yarko, Daniel, Sanabel, and Faraj met they became friends even though they had different beliefs. If more people were nicer to others even though they're different, it would make a better world. There would be less wars and more people would get along. Being nice to everyone can help fulfill this dream.

Finally, reading and seeing these, learning about their lives, made me appreciate things in my life more. It showed me that not everyone has a nice house, has nice clothes, or lives in a nice neighborhood. Not everyone can walk around feeling safe and at home. Some people take the risk of being shot or captured just by going outside. Having this much with a feeling of security adds up to a life I should appreciate very much.

In conclusion, learning about Anne Frank and the children in "Promises" changed the way I look at my life. I'm more appreciate, kinder, and more aware of suffering around me. Learning about these people made me realize just how lucky we are to live our lives the way we do.

Joyce C

Have you ever tried to cage a tiger? Or tried to capture the wind? Anne Frank was like that. Impossible to ensnare. Even when her body was taken, her mind was allowed to roam free. During her entrapment, over a period of four years, she only had her mind to occupy her, as no one else would recognize her for who she was. She recorded her thoughts about her family, her neighbors, life in general in a red diary. Even during turmoil in her life, she took time to write, to enlighten the world about her life.

The diary itself is not remarkable. In fact, it is rather small, but what is inside? Inside, are one girl's hopes and dreams for the future, where Jews could go to school and have the freedom to live. Reading this, I realized that Anne Frank figured something out. Material things are nice and dandy, but what's essential from our entire meaning of existence? If Anne Frank were an American, she would have been entitled to the most primitive right we living beings have—Life, Liberty, and Property. She barely had a life, lived on someone else's charity and had no liberty. Nevertheless, she slipped the wool off my eyes, which once had only seen the difficulties of the trouble I would get into if I did not deliver the white coffee straw named Charlie to my friends (Which, by the way, I still cannot find). Now, I started to enter what you adults call 'the real world'. I must say, I am terrified of entering what you consider the real world. Consider this: in Nigeria and India, the polio vaccine, which already has low funds, is being rejected based on rumors that it was a conspiracy by the westerners to annihilate all 'lesser races'. One man even went as far as to write a book on its destructive impact, claiming it spreads HIV. As if that isn't enough, the man who is the president of the Polio Victims Association (or some such organization) has polio and obviously supports him. He lives in Nigeria. The author of the propaganda-swollen book came from Nigeria. The government of Nigeria canceled the orders of the polio vaccine. As a result, the president of the PVA's youngest son now has polio.

However, you, the reader, probably already know about the condition of the world we live in already. But I didn't. Anne Frank didn't. Only when confined did she realize the true extent of the power of Hitler and the appalling ways he went to achieve it. Captured by the essence of the girl, I stayed, read, and learned. I learned about the condition of our world today. The diary made sure of that. It spoke of the simple truth, from the mind of a girl thirteen years old who just happened to live in a terrifying era.

Paige F

After learning about the tragic hardships that Anne Frank and the "Promises" children had to go through, I look at my life from a different point of view. I have learned to not take for granted things like my house, my bed, my horse and everything else in my life without even knowing it; without knowing me.

To begin, at first her diary was something I looked at as a chore, like I had to read it, but after I started to realize what this girl went through and how in the end she still believed that, "Everyone is good at heart." It wasn't a chore anymore. This "girl" I'm talking about is Anne Frank. Anne Frank is a female role model. Anne Frank wasn't just "some girl" who wrote "that diary." She was a young woman who shared her life and opinions with us, and she didn't even know she did it.

Anne Frank has changed the way I lived my life because she has taught me to love what I have, because at any second it could be snatched away at any moment. Anne Frank also helped me see that people are really good at heart. Anne Frank is an inspiration to all.

Second, the “Promises” children were really cool to watch and learn about. They showed me what it’s like to live in a country where there is war, soldiers, and checkpoints. It would not want to live in a country like where the “Promises” children live. The “Promises” children showed me that even through the toughest of times like when your brother gets shot or soldiers take your home or any other hard times you can pull through. Sanabel especially inspired me because she had problems with her dad and her situation, but she always seemed to be happy. Mahmoud showed me that opinions of people can change when you learn more about them. Faraj changed a lot as he got older and he ended up wanting peace between the two religions after living with his Jewish foster family. Yarko and Daniel didn’t change much but they were very loyal to their country and that made me want to help my country too.

Lastly, all these young adults helped me to learn to be grateful for what I have: my parents, my friends, my house, my horse and everything else. All of the kids were great and taught me a lot about myself and problems in the world.

In conclusion, I believe I have changed after learning about these young adults. I changed for the better. Every one of the kids we learned about is a good role model for any adolescent. they changed me and they can change you too!

Tyler G

## How Will Learning About Their Lives Change The Way You Live Yours?

When one person lives their daily life, just being themselves, it can change the world. Look at Anne Frank, or the seven kids in Promises. I don’t think that they ever knew that they could change lives by just being themselves. Who knew anyone had that kind of power? They definitely changed my life.

Before I started learning about Anne Frank or the seven teenagers in Promises, I guess I was a little “self-absorbed.” I had no clue what was going on in the rest of the world. Maybe I was naive, or maybe it was ignorance, but I only cared about what was going on in my little part of the world. I was stressed over little things like what was I going to wear, how my hair looked, or what other people thought of me. Now I don’t feel so naive anymore. Learning about those people has opened me up to the world more. And oh yeah, those little things, they don’t seem to matter that much anymore.

One thing that I admire about Anne Frank is that she didn’t care what other people thought of her. She was just herself. I think that that’s why so many people were attracted to her. She says in her diary that she had a lot of friends, and I can see why. I don’t think that she let peer pressure get in the way of what she thought she should do. She had to go through the same problems that we have to today. She had the pressure to be pretty and smart and liked and so on. Why is it so hard to overcome pressure? Media says that perfection is when you are size zero and you have a certain hair color and you come from a certain background and your eyes are a certain color...do you get the point? The media has one definition of perfection and beauty,

when in reality people are beautiful no matter what shape, color, or size. And no one is ever perfect, but why do we all strive to be and try to cover our little flaws? I'll tell you why, it's because of people telling us how to act and look and behave a certain way. It's pressure and us teenagers are targeted a lot because we're at a confusing turning point in our lives. We are starting to think for ourselves, and they want to put thoughts in our heads. We are vulnerable and they know it. I think that Anne thought about it a lot, but decided not to let it affect her daily life. I think that she was still a little unsure on the inside, but kept it inside and didn't let it show. I admire the fact that she just didn't care.

In Promises, a documentary made about children living in Israel and Palestinian refugee camps, there were brothers, named Yarko and Daniel. They lived in Israel and were Jewish, but weren't religious. In the documentary, Israeli and Palestinian kids meet. Yarko and Daniel are among them. They become friends and are able to understand each other and see each other's point of view. One of the people they really become friends with is a Palestinian boy named Faraj. But after some years, Yarko and Daniel get drafted into the Israeli army. In the documentary they talk about it and say that they have a duty to fight for their country and that friendship cannot get in the way of that. I can understand that they want to protect their country and keep their people safe, but could they point a loaded gun at Faraj, with the intention of shooting? I can understand that they might think he is a threat to their country, and if he was, I think that they would shoot. But would Yarko or Daniel shoot if Faraj were just standing there? I don't know. The hatred between the two countries goes way deeper than their friendship. Their friendship is a start, but a couple of people can't undo many years of blaming, hating, and fighting. "This is how it goes on - you killed my cousin, I killed your father, you killed my brother, I killed your cousin..." Faraj says that on the documentary about the fighting going on in Israel. They waste their time killing each other when they could be working towards peace. But their generation is the future of Israel, they are the ones who are going to have to step up and do something about what's going on. I think that the Israelis and Palestinians can't get over the fact of race. I want to be able to look at someone and not automatically judge him or her just because they are a certain race. I want to be able to see the person inside for who they really are, not just their background. If everyone could think like that, we could have world peace. If we could have that, no one would feel discriminated or judged or hated just because of his or her race. The world would be a better place.

There is an age-old rule that I know you've heard as a kid that everyone tries to follow but no one does. It is one rule that I will never forget after learning about these people's lives. Treat others the way you would like to be treated. People get abused, ridiculed, and beat up everyday because they have certain viewpoints, look a certain way, are from a certain background, basically if they are different in any way. I know that I have joined in with people who were making fun of someone, and I try everyday to change that. It's human nature to pick on the weak or the different, but that doesn't make it right. If everyone could follow that, we wouldn't have to worry about wars or bombings or genocide's anymore. The world would be at peace. No one would have to worry about being beat up, made fun of, or mistreated in any other way. It would give everyone more confidence to be themselves. Everyone could express themselves and just be who they wanted to be.

One last thing that I learned is to be able to live each day to the fullest. You will never

get this day again, so you might as well make the best of it. I want to be able to live each day so that if I were to die the next, I wouldn't have any regrets about not doing anything. I might never get a second chance at something, so why not just jump in headfirst? I want to see life as an adventure. My life is a book not yet written in and I'm the author. I have to make my own decisions and choices. I want to find beauty in everyday things. Anne Frank found beauty looking out of a small window in the attic of her hiding place. She was able to get up there and remember what the world was like even though she couldn't see it.

Learning about Anne Frank and the seven teenagers in *Promises* was a very powerful experience. It opened me up to new things and a new chapter in my life. I will never forget any of it as long as I live.

Michael P

How will learning about her life change the way you live yours?

Anne Frank's *Diary* is an amazing item. For it to be dumped out of a suitcase because the Nazi officers thought it was not worth anything is incredible. Her diary is a great example of what Jewish peoples' lives were like during the time of Hitler. The plaid diary has also changed many peoples' views on life as it has with me.

First of all, I felt fortunate that my life was nothing like hers. I have never been cooped up with eight other people in as small as living quarters as Anne was. Also, I have never had to ration food. When I took these facts and compared them with my neighbors too. They said mostly the same words.

In addition, she had to hide from people who were going to kill her. Again, I have never been hiding from someone who wanted to kill me. On top of all that Anne was a teenager. Her hormones were whacked and she needed to deal with people that annoyed her, such as Mr. Dussel.

All in all, after reading "The Diary of Anne Frank," I have taken into consideration that I am very lucky. Some people believe that it wouldn't have been that hard; however, Anne Frank lived a harsh and terrible life, once the Nazis invaded, that most of us would not be able to endure.

Victor S

Anne Frank was a Jewish girl who went into hiding in World War II and was killed in a concentration camp when she was 15. She had kept a diary at the time and not only documented events in the war but also conveyed her thoughts. Her entries at times deal with many of life's valuable teachings. In reading her diary we learn many of these.

One of the lessons we learn from Anne Frank is "The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely, or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, Nature, and God." This cure helped Anne Frank get through the mayhem and havoc of being caged up inside with no option to go anywhere, as she looked outside a window at sky and the natural beauty of earth. Anne Frank had reminded me of a simple old cure that when looking upon the beauty of nature and captivated in it, all troubles can be forgotten. A tip I will

sure to keep for the rest of my life. I learn from Anne Frank “that nature brings solace in all troubles.”

Another vital principal of life taught is when Anne Frank finds out that many of the arguments that happened could have been prevented if the people had looked from the other person’s point of view. She discovers that people should not be so selfish as to think of only themselves. And that they would not bicker if they had been more reasonable and look through the other person’s eyes and see what they were going through. She writes and tells that people could get along better if they had just been more understandable to each other. This lesson is bound to help me later on in life and resolve many disagreements between people and get along better with others. As Anne learns that if people had more insight then many quarrels could be prevented I learn along with her.

At this age many children, people, and adolescents like to be lazy and procrastinate, however, Anne Frank teaches us “laziness may appear attractive but work gives satisfaction.” Anne frank tells us the reality that by being idle we degrade ourselves to a low position where there will be none of the joys of life. She tells us that we should work to improve ourselves rather than just mope about our problems and do nothing about them. Anne Frank teaches me that leading a life of hard work will be much more gratifying than living a lazy life. By reading Anne Frank’s diary, I have been encouraged to work even harder.

After I read the diary I had become a changed man. To begin with, I had learned that when all of my life seems to be in turmoil, I can always find peace in nature. Then i had been taught that life could be much more peaceful if I learned to have more insight of other people’s views. Finally, Anne showed me that laziness is not at all acceptable and that only hard work will bring me happiness. After reading Anne Frank’s diary, I have become wiser for the most part on many issues.

Jennifer Z

In the 1959 movie, Otto Frank said, “For the past two years, we have lived in fear. Now we can live in hope.” Regardless of whether Mr. Frank ever said that, it was true for the 8 people the Secret Annex on the day of August 4th , although Anne is the focus of international fame, it was Otto who kept her alive in those two years; it was he who shared her message with the world. Through the diary, Anne seems like any typical teenage girl. Frank. Honest. And a little bit self absorbed. But she had one characteristic that no other had... her spirit.

It was almost impossible to believe that people found happiness during W.W.II, but Anne did. She once wrote “To my great joy - I will be quite honest about it - already this morning I noticed that Peter kept looking at me all the time.” Her spirit and her optimism allowed her to live her life happily as well as encourage e those around her to do go. Everyone should learn from her; to make the best out of every situation, for we will never be in a situation as bad as hers.

Another thing that we must learn, not necessarily from her, but from her story is that the Holocaust must never happened again. The Holocaust was cold-blooded murder, plain and simple. It was unbelievable that the Nazis were able to push humans so like themselves into a gas chamber. Over six million people died because of one man’s belief. From Anne’s story, we learn

the horrors of it, but also the way in which some were able to rise above it, for human spirit can triumph over any obstacle. Anne's story alone proves that happenings such as the Holocaust will never succeed.

The pen is mightier than the sword. The legacy that Anne left behind will stay with everyone forever, her wish, "to go on living even after my death," has come true.

Alison W

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl is a widely known book published in at least 55 different languages. It is a book that was written by a Jewish girl during W.W.II as a diary when she was in hiding. It is a book so moving that this question arises: How will learning about her life change the way you live yours?

One of the main reasons that the majority of people today would think is to become more grateful. If you think about it: Anne Frank was hiding in a stuffy Annex that is concealed from the public. The worst part is, she cannot step foot outside. She could not breathe the air for a little more than 2 years! Imagine being stuck in a classroom for 2 years, whispering, tip-toeing around, and having to survive on three handfuls of food everyday. After reading this, you have to be a little grateful about life.

To wrap this up, this book has changed many lives of people today. It was moving and inspired me in many ways.

Jeffery N.

Q. How will learning about her (Anne Frank) life change the way you live yours?

In the Diary of Anne Frank, Anne Frank and her family go through a number of miserable times. This, however, would change the way people live their lives.

My first reason is that because many people could not relate to what happened to her they can learn from her mistakes.

My last reason is that so many people died and were taken away from their homes. For example, most people who went to camp died of starvation, beating, or murdered.

In conclusion, by learning about Anne Frank's life, my life changed.

Ryan M

Learning about Anne Frank's life has changed me. First, it taught me to be more tolerant if people are different from you. And no matter how different they are, they are still human. Another thing her life taught me was that some times, I should stop and take a couple of minutes and think of how lucky I am to have all the things I own and how lucky I am to be alive. One last thing she has taught me is that no matter how bad things get, you must have faith and hopefully things will turn out O.K. That's what I've learned and how I have changed by reading about her life.

Jessica Z

Learning about Anne Frank's life has changed my view of living today. After reading her diary, I don't take things for granted. I'm lucky to be alive each day, I'm lucky to have a house, food, and friends. I'm lucky to not be in the same situation as Anne Frank. Anne Frank once said, "In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart." Now I believe that too. Even though I might hate someone so much, I still know that somewhere in them they are still good at heart. I would wish I could have things I didn't have but when I think of Anne Frank, I'm just glad that I'm not cooped up in my house like she was. Anne Frank has inspired me in many ways and one of the ways is that even though you may be going through rough times, there is still hope.

Andrea T

How will learning about her life change the way you live yours? To me, it changed my life a lot. It showed me that I am very lucky to have everything. To be able to go outside and enjoy life.

When I went to the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC during spring vacation, I appreciated it a lot more than others. Seeing the videos, shoes, bunk bed, the cargo trucks, the personal stories, and all the exhibits, made me think how terrible it was.

Also, when Elizabeth Seiden came in. Hearing her mother's story made me realize how bad it was. That day when I came home I really enjoyed seeing my family.

It changed my life a lot. I know now how terrible it was and that I am grateful for my life. And remember what Otto Frank said, "We had lived the last two years in fear. Now we can begin to live in hope."

Nick G

How will learning about her life, change the way you live yours?

The story of Anne Frank, in my opinion, is the most tragic W.W.II story ever. Learning about it changed my life and how I feel about the Purpose of W.W.II. I didn't realize that the soul purpose of the war was to rid the earth of the Jews. But by learning about the story of Anne Frank, I now know that the Nazis were really terrible people.

Another way Anne's story helped my life is how she always had hope. When they went into hiding, she had hope that they would not be discovered. Even after she was discovered, she hoped that she would survive the camps.

Finally she helped me understand that all people may be good.

Jeremy H

Anne Frank What's to say about her? Her life utterly changed my perspective that I have on my life. Her simple statements and thoughts certainly changed my life for the better.

First of all the quote, "Before I took everything for granted." This quote is profoundly interesting. It brings about the thinking, "You do not know what you have until it is gone." I think before I basically took everything for granted. That everything I have, I should have. I did not look at my belongings as blessings I have come to the realization that you should be thankful

for whatever you have. In essence, be content, and find happiness in small things. Also, Do not take anything for granted.

Another quote I believe she ever said was, “ I believe in spite of everything people are really good at heart.” That is the most inspirational quote I probably have ever heard. I always believed that some people (like Hitler) have absolutely no good in them. I am totally changed with that quote. The realization that even the most horrid people could have good inside, has profoundly changed my perspective.

In conclusion, learning about Anne Frank intensely changed the way I look on people and the way I live my life. Her powerful story; however short, has affected millions of people around the world. She truly is living after her death.

Lucy W

“How will learning about her life change the way you live yours?” Anne Frank had a terrifying life. Once she went into hiding the little things became big things to her. I’m going to tell you about reading The Diary of Anne Frank has changed my life.

First of all it made me not take advantage of the small things in life like nature and being outside. While Anne was in hiding she could only dream about nature and going outside, it was too dangerous to be seen outside. I couldn’t imagine being locked up in an attic for two years not seeing the outside world.

My next reason is now, when I become angry, I think of the worst. I could be like Anne Frank and be stuck in hiding for two years with close to no privacy. At least I have my own room, and not have to share with people.

Learning about Anne Franks life has made me appreciate mine.

Mia S

Anne Frank’s Diary is about a diary written by a 13-year old Jewish girl in hiding during World War II. Reading her diary and learning about her life has influenced me to live my life differently in many positive ways.

Anne Frank was such an amazing young girl. In a time of fear where most young girls and Jews were scared and frightened, Anne was the strongest of the all. Anne always looked on the bright side of things. Through all the misery and loneliness in hiding she always made the most of it, not only for herself but for others as well, such as Peter. Anne influences me to enjoy my life. We only get one life and we might as well make the most of it. Anne tells Peter in the movie before they are captured, about how he should have beliefs because when he dies he will know where his life will lead to. People should always have a religion and their own beliefs to devote yourself so you know where your afterlife will lead you. Anne’s bravery makes me want to be stronger and braver than I am, and live my life knowing that I did the best I could.

Second, Anne has a positive opinion on everyone. During the war, the Nazi’s were the meanest people who possibly killed many of Anne’s friends and family, yet Anne believed that, “all people are truly good at heart.” It makes me realize that all the mean people deal with everyday have the same good in them and to give and care. When I feel like I’ve lost a mean

friend, I know deep down they really are a good person and Always give them a second chance.  
In conclusion, Anne Frank is my hero because of her bravery, and ability to always look on the bright-side of situations. Learning about her life, I have realized that being able to look back on my life and have no regrets, is the greatest feeling in the world.