

## PROBLEMATIC SITUATION

# The Diary of Anne Frank

### PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

The students will begin to feel like Anne Frank in deciding upon the limited items they would bring if they were to be transported from one hiding place to another. They will understand more about the time frame in which Anne lived. This activity provides an effective introduction when Anne and her sister begin packing; July 1942 entries. Using problem solving skills, the students will assess the practicality of certain belongings and decide which ones would be most essential.

### DIRECTIONS

1. Begin the activity by using examples from the text showing the limited quarters and the need to transport their belongings by foot in small satchels (July 9, 1942 entry).
2. Briefly ask the students what items they just couldn't live without and items they would be happy to leave behind.
3. Pass out the scenario and have the students read it independently.
4. Model how the students are to rank the inventory of supplies for each character (father, mother, daughter, son).
5. Challenge the class to evaluate how the family must divide the supplies in order to survive most effectively in hiding.
6. Divide the class into psuedo-families and facilitate discussion within the groups to evaluate their own personal rankings.
7. Have each family create a new inventory of supplies and provide rational to defend their decision.
8. Meet as a class to discuss what they have discovered.

### ASSESSMENT

The problematic situation allows the students to formulate ideas on how survival needed to be attained through sacrifice and unity. They will evaluate family structures as well as individual roles within a family. As you lead into the story you can build group assessment by following the family model and recognizing every group members responsibility. As the group will need to decide on each family members role, discuss the steps each group had to make in order to come to a conclusion. Identify what changes could have been made to make the group work better next time.

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### DIRECTIONS:

You have been given a scenario and list of supplies that you will need to prioritize for a family. After you read the scenario, think of the importance of each of the items and how you will divide the responsibility for each item. Be prepared to defend your answers. After the entire class has formulated their prioritized list you will be grouped into similar families and decide again how the items will be distributed. Once again, really think through your choices and visualize how you would react if you really had to get up and move only taking a few small items. Good luck!

### SCENARIO:

You are the son/daughter of a Jewish family of four living in Poland. At this time you are seeing negative influences of the Nazi regime and have heard of the horrors of deportation and concentration camps. You have discussed this threatening situation with some of your friends and have decided to leave your home and nearly all of your belongings to hide in a small attic space above the office of a good friend to avoid separation. You will need to wrap all the items you decide to take with you in a bed sheet. This is important as you pack because of your limited space and weight capacity. Your family has compiled a list of 20 of the most important items that you would like to take with you. Each family member will be allowed to carry 4 items and size-wise must be able to fit bundled in a bed sheet. Decide what you will take and who will be responsible for each item. Everyone is wearing two full sets of clothing.

### List of Items:

- 1 Family photo album
- 2 extra blankets
- 1 journal
- 1 small china set
- 4 individual items of choice (one for each family member)
- 1 porcelain vase
- 2 cast iron cooking pans (aprox. 10 lbs. each)
- 4 small personal grooming boxes (comb, toothbrush, soap, wash cloth)  
—can be redistributed
  
- 1 small set of books
- 1 gold necklace
- 1 silver platter
- 1 pocket knife

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Individual List

FAMILY MEMBER	ITEM 1	ITEM 2	ITEM 3	ITEM 4
Father				
Mother				
Daughter				
Son				

Items left behind:

Family List:

FAMILY MEMBER	ITEM 1	ITEM 2	ITEM 3	ITEM 4
Father				
Mother				
Daughter				
Son				

Items left behind:

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