CONCEPT ANALYSIS
The Diary of Anne Frank

Organizational Patters

Anne Frank was a young girl whose life comes alive when reading her story, *The Diary of Anne Frank*. People all over the world are able to see what life as a persecuted Jew was like during World War II; thus gaining an appreciation for the sacrifices people made in the struggle to stay alive. Anne Frank did not become famous until after her death in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and after the liberation of all concentration camps. Otto Frank, the only surviving member of the people hiding in the Secret Annex, later had Anne's dairy published.

Literature Study

The story takes place in Amsterdam during the years of World War II and immediately thereafter. During the war era much of the paraphernalia acts as symbolism. From the Nazi swastikas to the yellow stars worn by the Jews icons of race, religion, and political alliance are given through symbols. In Anne’s account and situational settings of the attic, the office where the hiding place is and the characters movements show stark symbols of confinement hostility and discrimination.

Effective Issues

Anne’s coming of age becomes an emotional progression. She evolves from the boy loving little girl that comes to identify the severity of her family situation and the German influence. The parental relationships of a father and mother dealing with protecting their daughter become hidden emotional portrayals of love and sacrifice. The
necessity to instill security and love against serious opposition produces an amazing
display of heartfelt devotion and risk. The viewpoint of the protectors also induce
affective notions, withstanding social political mandates at the cost of self-endangerment
produces sympathy and omits charity.

Vocabulary Issues

With Jewish and Nazi involvement a lot of words will be foreign to most students.
Hanukkah, Green Police, Nazi, SS, and many other war items will need to be addressed.
I think just looking at the names of the people involved; teaching regional characteristics
and language differences between, German, Dutch, English, and Polish will be very
helpful.

Major Concepts

Dealing with war will probably be the most obvious concept addressed. Looking
at the effects on the family, religious groups, countries, and the world specifically give
perspectives on war from localized individual viewpoints. Looking for individual
responses on giving up your freedoms to go outdoors, to use indoor plumbing, leaving
friends or a loved a pet will allow students to conceptualize “War” to their own lives.
Discussing how writing becomes a major resource in expression during trying times will
assist in promoting literacy. How writing also conserves history can also be taught.

Background Knowledge

Do we have a lot here! Looking at World War I and its effects on the following
war will be crucial in establishing ground work for the Franks. Looking at the Holocaust
with all the horrific information on the concentration camps, death tolls, demonic

Bécar, BYU
brutality, and economic consequences of such a battle will be important. Just looking at Hitler and his political regime can be a fascinating study. Much has been discovered on the life and person of Anne Frank. I took an interest in a report for another class on the naval practices during WW II which literally blew me away. This information is not necessarily crucial to the text but seeing outside the pages brings the obscure words into reality.

Implications of Diversity

Diversity within the text is very distinctive. This is one of the reasons why I would enjoy teaching this book. Students will feel the subjection they either have felt or will come to understand for the first time. It is difficult to come to actually understand what people of different races or religions go through and yet powerful in this story. I think it was neat for me to understand a bit more clearly what a girl went through as well. Social structures, economic statuses, racial genders, and mixed categories of everything witness of diversity and assimilation.

Gender Issues

Like I mentioned with diversity implications, I found it interesting to see how Anne dealt with her circumstances as a female. Mr. Frank as a father, husband, and male also add to the gender distinctions noticeable in the script. If we were to closely examine the different characters during certain situations we could show gender roles differ and offer criticism to such social customs. Mixed with the multicultural aspect we could contrive gender differences among different nationalities.

Bécar, BYU
Central Issue

I noted before that war would be a large part of background information and vocabulary. However, I don’t believe that dealing with war is the main issue. I look to this piece as a powerful identifier for children, adolescent youth, to see how amidst severe hardship, what are we capable of producing. Whether it is through writing, dancing, singing, speaking, thinking, or reading expression is made by everyone. Even a confined girl without a secure place to sleep or who knows if she will live to the next day can find strength to survive. Practical methods of dealing with life and see how to productively maintain hope during trying times would be my focus in teaching this novel.

Research Ideas

Examining the Outcomes of Jewish Refugees, Affects of World War II, War Tactics, Literature of War Soldiers/Governmental Individuals, Children during the Holocaust, Current War Probabilities, Families of the Holocaust, Anne Frank’s Family, German Power Today

Informational/Functional Textual Support

Newspapers, magazines, war statistics, encyclopedias, other journals, pictures of war, radio transcripts, etc.