



Changing life stories

Dutch Diaries – chapter 8

If it appeals, you could get two students to perform this speech. One as Lily, the other Anya. You might want to review the video before you show it, as it is about children being rescued at sea. Thanks for reading.

Anya and Lily's school assembly Skype

Anya

Lily and I have been asked by Mrs Mahal to speak to you back in England about our trip to the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam.

School assembled back in England

[Cheering and waving.]

Lily

Anya and I have spent the day working together so that we can tell you about what the Anne Frank House was like and how it made us feel. Anya is now going to tell you a bit about Anne Frank and why she is so important to all of us.

Anya

Anne Frank was German and Jewish. But, when the Nazis took over in Germany, they tried to hurt the Jewish people. So, Anne and her family moved to Amsterdam in Holland. Unfortunately, the Nazis invaded Holland too. The Frank family was forced to hide, for fear of their lives. That is where Anne wrote her diary about her life in hiding. Tens of millions of people have read that diary.

Lily

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Very, very ,very sadly, Anne Frank and her family were found by the Nazis towards the end of the war and were taken away to concentration camps where they were treated very badly and most of them were killed.

Anya

I... we... Lily... please can you...

Lily

Er... yes. Anya and I had a disagreement before we went into the Anne Frank House. It doesn't matter what it was about. But when we looked around Anne Frank's House and we saw where she had to live and got an idea of what she went through, it made us think. We saw how badly Jewish people were treated and we heard about how scared Anne and her sister and parents must have been. It's hard to imagine.

Anya

I... er... I was standing by the actual diary that Anne wrote in. It was in a glass case at the end of the museum tour. It looked just like this one. Erm... can I pick it up, please, Lily?

Lily

Sure.

Anya

Here it is. This is Lily's mum's copy of Anne Frank's diary. It's really special to Lily because her mum gave it to her. It is from when her mum was a girl. Anyway, I was in the Anne Frank House looking at the real diary and I felt really bad. When we were in England I hid Anne's mum's diary and she thought she'd lost it. It was mean of me and I want to say sorry to Lily today.

Lily

Erm... thanks.

Anya

What I have just said wasn't part of the speech that Lily and I prepared. But I wanted to say it...



Lily

Erm ...

Anya

Anyway, when I was standing at the real diary, I understood that I had been really mean and it made me think that I am going to try to be nicer to other people. Going round Anne Frank's House did that for me. It's sad place a place where terrible things happened. But for me it is a place that is good too. Does that sound weird?

Lily

I don't think that sounds weird. I think the reason people go to Anne Frank's house is good. We both came away feeling better about each other and we also came away thinking something else too. Anya had an idea about something we could do.

Anya

We want to show you this video of some children who are being rescued from the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, miles away from land. Please watch.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=mediterranean+sea+children&&view=detail&mid=F8A9DF3CF7F93576F942F8A9DF3CF7F93576F942&FORM=VRDGAR>

Lily

There are lots of reasons why people pile onto boats like we just saw in the video with their children. It's complicated. Not everyone in the boats is escaping from a war or from terrible lives. Some aren't. But some are. Why would you take the risk of drowning in the sea with a hundred people in a tiny boat if you weren't afraid? I don't really understand. And we can't give you the answers to those questions. But we can feel bad watching that video. Imagine if that was you or one of your friends. Imagine if that rescue boat hadn't turned up. What would have happened to them?

Anya and Lily (together)

We think that when children suffer like Anne Frank suffered and those children on that video suffered that it is wrong. We decided – after coming out of Anne Frank's house – that we wanted to do something. Our first *something* is to make this speech and – when we get home – to find out more about what we can do to help children who are suffering in the world now.



Lily

Now we're going to another city in Holland called Utrecht. Tonight we are going to watch England play Scotland in EURO 2017.

Anya and Lily (together)

Thank you for listening.

Assembly

[Sound of clapping.]

Mrs Mahal

Thank you, girls. You have done well and we are very proud of you. You showed a great example of collaboration. You are an example to the whole school. Now, something else... I'm very excited to say that Lily, Anya and the others will be getting an extra surprise after the game tonight. But that will have to wait... We can tell you about that when we get home.

Thank you for reading. The last chapter of this story will be written tonight – after Tom has watched England play Scotland – and will be published online early Thursday morning.

You can watch England play Scotland on Channel 4 tonight, with a 7.45 p.m. kick off. Enjoy the game.

