

Name: _____ Class: _____

Woman Who Helped Anne Frank Dies at 100

By Teri Schultz, National Public Radio
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Miep Gies was the last survivor to help Anne Frank's family hideout during the Holocaust. Gies was interviewed by NPR's Teri Schultz for her amazing act of bravery in 1998 and upon her death in 2010, NPR revisited the interview. Anne Frank was a German-born Jewish girl who hid with her family in an attic in Amsterdam during the Holocaust. She is one of the most famous victims of the Holocaust thanks to the discovery of her diary which her father and Holocaust survivor, Otto Frank, published after the Holocaust. Today Anne's diary is one of the most well-read works of literature in the world. As you read, annotate for details that reveal Gies' character and motives.

- [1] The last survivor who helped Anne Frank and her family hide from the Nazis has died. Miep Gies was 100. After the Franks were discovered and deported,¹ it was Gies who found and preserved² Anne's diary.

DEBORAH AMOS, host: Back in 1998, NPR's special correspondent³ Susan Stamberg visited a woman in Amsterdam and asked her a simple question.

SUSAN STAMBERG: How do you say diary in Dutch?

Ms. MIEP GIES: Dagboek.

- [5] **STAMBERG:** Dagboek? Oh, daybook.

Ms. GIES: Yes. Daybook.

STAMBERG: Dag?

Ms. GIES: Yes.

STAMBERG: Boek.

- [10] **Ms. GIES:** Boek.

STAMBERG: Is diary.



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1. **Deport (verb):** to expel (a foreigner) from a country, typically on the grounds of illegal status or for having committed a crime
2. **Preserve (verb):** to maintain (something) in its original or existing state
3. **Correspondent (noun):** a writer or reporter

AMOS: That woman is Miep Gies. The diary she's referring to is Anne Frank's. Miep Gies helped Anne Frank hide with her family during World War II and saved Anne's diary after she and her family were captured by the Germans. Gies died yesterday at the age of 100. Teri Schultz has this remembrance.

TERI SCHULTZ: Miep Gies said she did not like being called a hero. Yet, she risked her life many times over to help the Frank family during the two years they hid from the Nazis in a secret annex⁴ built into the Trading Company office in Amsterdam where she'd worked for Otto Frank almost a decade.

Providing refuge⁵ to Jews, she noted later, carried a punishment of at least six months in a concentration camp.⁶ Still, the Austrian-born Dutch woman, knighted by the governments of Germany and the Netherlands, recipient of a medal from Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, always insisted she had done nothing extraordinary.

[15] **Ms. MIEP GIES:** I, myself, I'm just a very common person. I simply had no choice. I could foresee many, many sleepless nights and a life filled with regret if I would have refused to help the Franks. And this was not the kind of life I was looking for at all.

SCHULTZ: Gies explained another motivation for emphasizing her modesty. She said if people are allowed to think it takes remarkable qualities to act boldly⁷ on behalf of others, few will attempt it.

Ms. GIES: People should never think that you have to be a very special person to help those who need you.

SCHULTZ: But Gies clearly was very special, even when someone still unknown betrayed those she called the hidiers and they were taken away at gunpoint to death camps. Gies was not intimidated. She sneaked back into the secret hideaway to try to preserve any belongings of the Franks that hadn't been destroyed or taken. And there she found what would eventually become a treasure of the entire world.

Ms. GIES: I saw Anne's diary scattered all over the floor. I took it with me. I hoped I could return it to Anne after the war. I wanted to see her smile and hear her say, Oh Miep, my diary.

[20] **SCHULTZ:** That day would never come, as Anne did not survive the Nazi death camps. But Otto Frank did. And he made his way back to Amsterdam in 1945 returning to stay with Gies and her husband. On the very sad day that year that he learned both his daughters had died in a camp, Otto Frank later explained in a documentary, Gies delivered him what he called a miracle.

Mr. OTTO FRANK: When I returned and after I heard the news that my children would not come back, Miep gave me the diary.

SCHULTZ: Gies described that moment herself years ago in an interview with the Anne Frank Museum in Amsterdam.

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4. **Annex (noun):** an extension to a main building
 5. **Refuge (noun):** shelter or protection from danger
 6. **Concentration camp:** a place where large numbers of people, especially political prisoners or members of persecuted minorities, are deliberately imprisoned in a relatively small area with inadequate facilities, sometimes to provide forced labor or to await mass execution. The term is most strongly associated with the several hundred camps established by the Nazis in Germany and occupied Europe in 1933-45, among the most infamous being Dachau, Belsen, and Auschwitz.
 7. **Boldly (adverb):** not fearful in the face of possible or real danger; courageous and daring

Ms. GIES: (Foreign language spoken)

SCHULTZ: Gies said she took the diary out of the desk where she'd saved it and she handed it to Otto Frank with the words: this is the legacy of your daughter Anne. She had never read a word of it, and in fact, could not bring herself to do so until after Otto Frank published the diary in 1947, two years after Anne's death.

[25] The diary of Anne Frank is a legacy Miep Gies gave not just to Otto Frank, but to the world. It's been translated into some 65 languages and remains one of the best read books internationally. To the end of her century of life, Gies said she thought with sadness every day about the friends she had lost.

On her website she wrote it was her greatest sorrow that she and the others had been unable to save Anne, but she was pleased they'd been able to give the young woman two more years of life, and in that period Gies noted, Anne had written the diary with her message of tolerance⁸ and understanding.

For NPR News, I'm Teri Schultz.

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8. **Tolerance (noun):** the ability or willingness to tolerate something, in particular the existence of opinions or behaviors that one does not necessarily agree with

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following best explains the purpose of the details provided in paragraph 13 and paragraph 14?
 - A. To provide readers with details of why Schultz conducted the interview with Gies in the first place.
 - B. To illustrate the great risks Gies was willing to take to help Jews seek refuge during the Holocaust.
 - C. To explain the location of the events of the Holocaust and Frank's family.
 - D. To contrast the heroism of Gies with the cruelty of the Nazi forces.

2. PART B: Which of the following paragraphs from later in the interview reinforces the answer to #1?
 - A. Paragraph 15
 - B. Paragraph 16
 - C. Paragraph 18
 - D. Paragraph 22

3. PART A: What does the word "modesty" most likely mean as it is used in paragraph 16?
 - A. heroism
 - B. success
 - C. remorse
 - D. humbleness

4. PART B: Which of the following TWO phrases best proves your answer above?
 - A. "...nothing extraordinary..." (paragraph 14)
 - B. "...a very common person" (paragraph 15)
 - C. "...remarkable qualities..." (paragraph 16)
 - D. "...act boldly..." (paragraph 16)
 - E. "...hadn't been destroyed or taken." (paragraph 18)

5. Which of the following is the main reason Gies preserved Frank's diary?
 - A. Gies wished to return the diary to Anne's father, Otto, the only surviving member of the family.
 - B. Gies knew that the diary would be of great importance to the world and therefore decided to preserve it.
 - C. Gies wanted to prove to the Nazi soliders that the Frank family would never be forgotten.
 - D. Gies sought to return it to Anne in order to bring her joy.

6. Explain Gies' motivation for helping Jewish families during the war.

Discussion Questions

Directions: *Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.*

1. Is Gies a hero or is she, as she suggests, just a “very common person?” Cite examples from the story and in real life.

2. Can common people be heroes? Cite examples from literature and real life.

3. Why do you think more people didn't take the risks Gies took to help?