

A R o b b i e R e a d e r



WHAT'S SO
GREAT ABOUT...?

ANNE FRANK



Jim Whiting

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A Robbie Reader/What's So Great About . . . ?

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Galileo	George Washington Carver	Harriet Tubman
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Jim Whiting has been a remarkably versatile and accomplished journalist, writer, editor, and photographer for more than 30 years. He has written and edited more than 250 nonfiction children's books. His subjects range from authors to zoologists and include contemporary pop icons and classical musicians, saints and scientists, emperors and explorers. Representative titles include *The Life and Times of Franz Liszt*, *The Life and Times of Julius Caesar*, *Charles Schulz*, *Charles Darwin and the Origin of the Species*, *Juan Ponce de Leon*, *Robert Fulton*, and *The Scopes Monkey Trial*. He lives in Washington State with his wife and two teenage sons.

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Words in **bold** type can be found in the glossary.



CHAPTER ONE

A Nighttime Scare

Anne Frank was frightened. It was almost midnight, and it sounded like someone was trying to break in.

“Footsteps in the house,” she wrote. “The private office, the kitchen, then . . . on the staircase.”

Anne wasn't by herself. Her parents and her sister were with her. So were Hermann and Auguste van Pels, their son Peter, and Fritz Pfeffer, a family friend.

“All sounds of breathing stopped, eight hearts pounded,” she continued. “Footsteps on the stairs . . . then we heard a can fall, and the footsteps **receded**.”

CHAPTER ONE

They didn't know if they were still in danger. "A shiver went through everyone's body. I heard several sets of teeth chattering, no one said a word," Anne continued.

A home break-in would be frightening for anyone. For Anne and the others, it would almost certainly mean death. This incident took place during World War II in April 1944 in Amsterdam, Holland. At that time, Holland was controlled by Germany, whose leader was Adolf Hitler.

Hitler disliked Jews—people who practice **Judaism** (JOO-day-ism). When he came to power in 1933, he ordered restrictions to be placed on them. Many Jews were arrested and taken to **concentration camps**. In these awful places, thousands of people were crammed together in filthy conditions. Many starved to death or died from disease. Most of the others were killed. This evil program became known as the **Holocaust** (HAH-luh-kost).

The Franks and the others were Jewish. They had been hiding from the Germans for

In German concentration camps, men and women were separated. Their hair was shaved, and their clothes, jewels, and money were taken. They were given thin clothing and a bowl, then sent to live in overcrowded bunkhouses. Many died of starvation or disease.



nearly two years. They knew that if they were discovered, they too would be sent to concentration camps.

They had taken a radio with them into hiding and listened to it every day. In the months before the break-in, the news had gotten better. They heard that the Germans were losing the war. When the Germans were finally defeated, they would be safe. Could they stay hidden that long?

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