

The Power of the Written Voice

Exploring history,
identity, and language
through the diary of
Anne Frank.



12 June
1929

Born in
Frankfurt,
Germany.



Emigrates to
Amsterdam, Holland,
as Nazis gain power.

July
1942

The family
goes into
hiding in
her father's
office
building.



The final
diary entry.

Feb/Mar
1945

Anne dies of
typhus in
Bergen-Belsen
concentration
camp.

*A unique record — saved and
published by her father, Otto Frank,
the sole survivor of the group.*

**Daily
Record**

Diary



A book with a separate space for each day to record intimate thoughts, feelings, and events (e.g., Anne's writings).

Log



A formal, time-stamped written record of events, usually official (e.g., a ship's log).

Retrospective

Memoir



A person's own retrospective account of their life and specific experiences.

Journal



A full record of a journey, period, or event.

Deeply Personal

Highly Official

“Paper has more patience than people.”



Enter Kitty

To enhance the image of this long-awaited friend in her imagination, Anne refuses to simply jot down dry facts.

"I want the diary to be my friend, and I'm going to call this friend 'Kitty'."

This personification allows Anne to write with a startlingly intimate, conversational voice rather than a rigid historical tone.

Kitty

Notebook

The Classroom Setup



The Antagonist: Mr. Keesing, the "old foyey" who teaches math, has been annoyed for ages because Anne talks too much.



The Stakes

The entire class is "quaking in its boots," placing bets on who will move up to the next form. Anne's only worry? Math.

The Chatterbox Escalation

*The class roars.
Anne's ingenuity is
nearly exhausted.*

*Completes it, buying
two whole lessons
of peace.*

Step 3
The Breaking Point

Essay: Quack,
Quack, Quack, Said
Mistress Chatterbox.

Step 2
The Relapse

Anne talks through
the next lesson.
Essay: An Incurable
Chatterbox.

*Anne argues talking is
an inherited female trait
from her mother that
cannot be cured.*

Step 1
The Warning

Keesing assigns an
essay: A Chatterbox.

*argues
alking
s an
herited
it from
er mother
ot be cured.*

*Anne argues
ow a popul
through the
them to har
that also voice*

*Keesing's man an essay is
intended the class on
body*

*Here things retained
lecton and not*

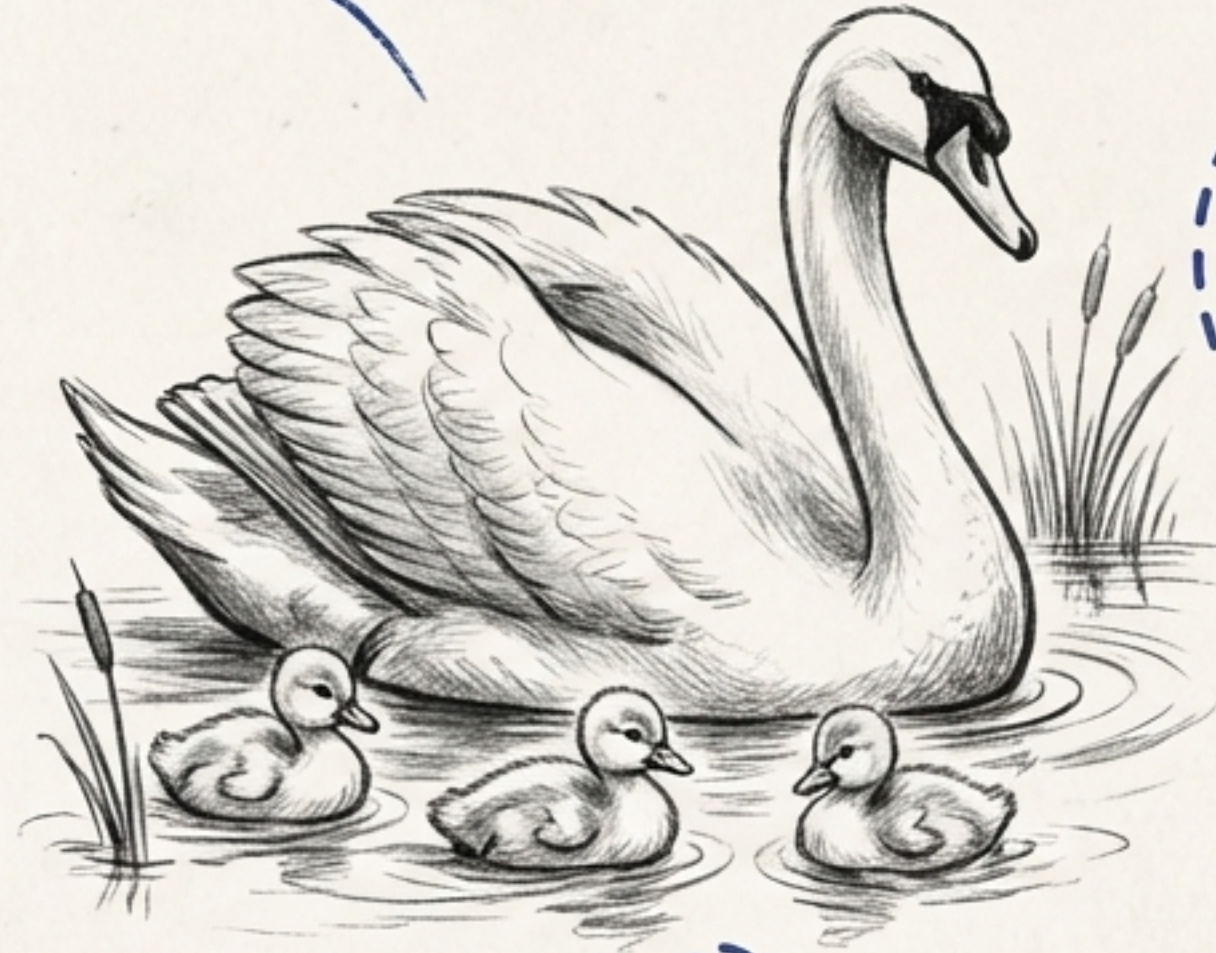
Turning the Tables

The Pivot

Anne enlists her friend Sanne to write the final essay entirely in verse.

The Poem

A mother duck and father swan bite their three baby ducklings to death because they quacked too much.



The Result

Mr. Keesing recognizes the joke is on him. He reads it to multiple classes, allows Anne to talk, and starts making jokes himself. The power of creative writing wins the day.



Character Synthesis: Who is Anne?

Self-Aware

Acknowledges her inability to truly confide in friends despite having many.



Deeply Loving

Her sketch notes she still thinks of and loves her Grandmother, lighting a candle for her in 1942.



Observant & Critical

Casually notes that about a quarter of the class should be kept back because they are "dummies."



Ingenious

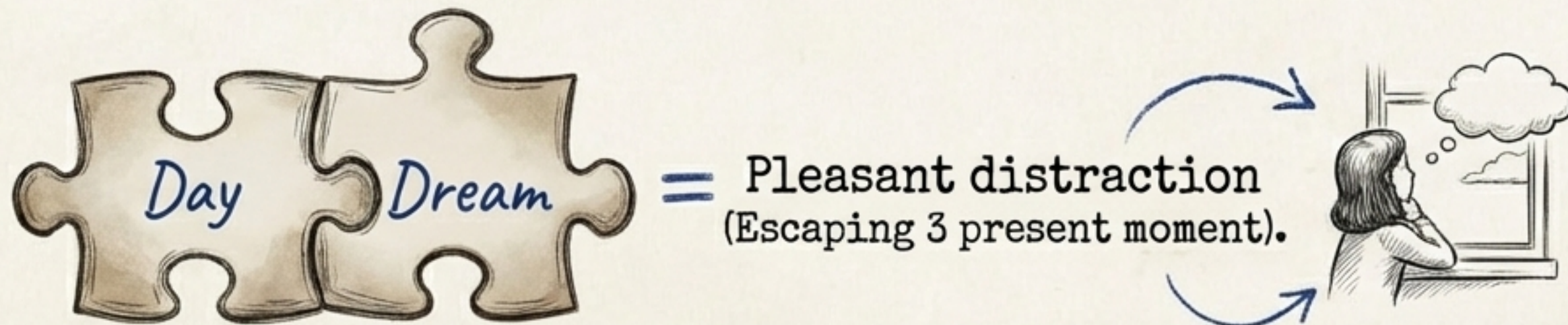
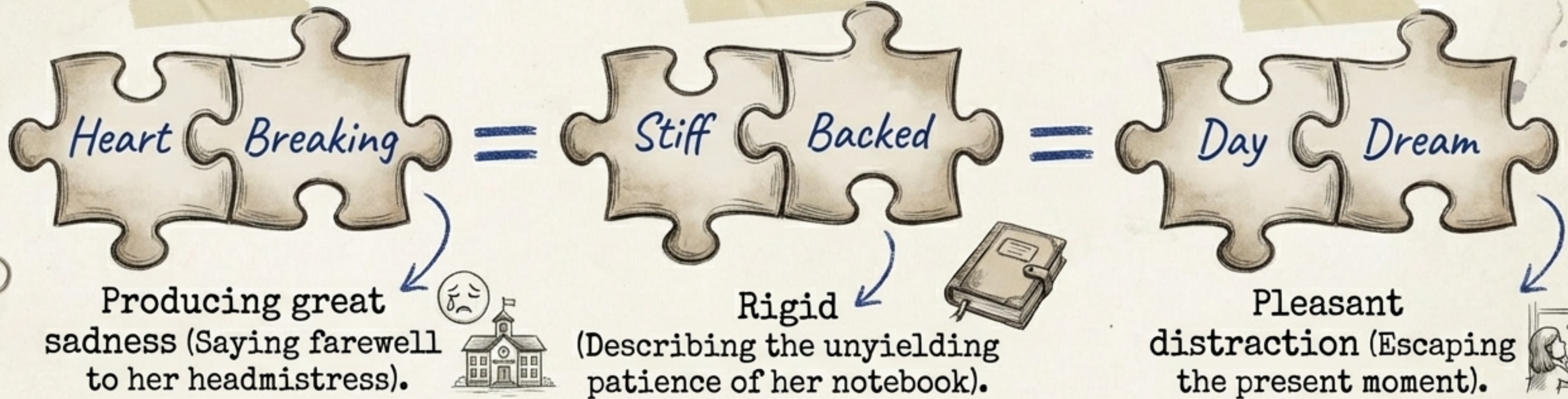
Outsmarts a strict math teacher through sheer wit and literary creativity.



Our Subject

The Writer's Toolkit: Compound Words

Anne's vocabulary builds vivid, specific imagery by snapping words together.





The Writer's Toolkit: Phrasal Verbs

Anatomy of a Phrasal Verb



Examples from the Diary:

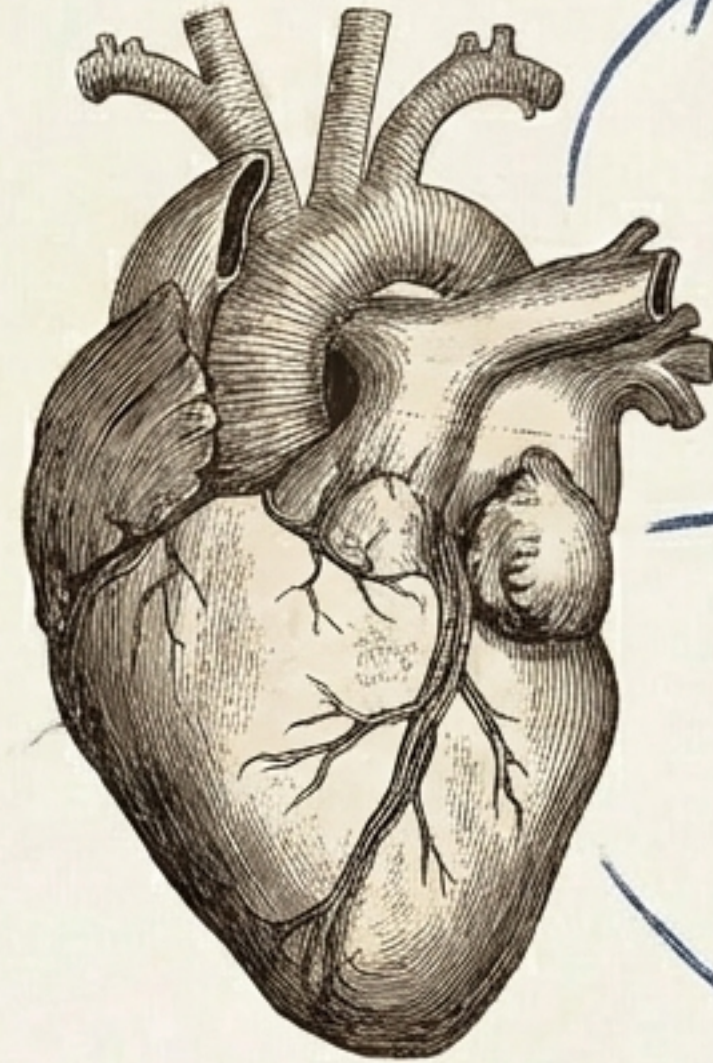
Verb	Meaning
Plunge (right) in	To go straight to the topic without introduction.
Kept back	Not promoted to the next grade (the fate of the 'dummies'). 
Ramble on	To speak or write without focus or aimlessly. 

The Writer's Toolkit: Idioms of the Heart & Eye



Caught my eye

*Attracted my attention
(how Anne noticed the
essay assignment).*



Not to lose heart

*Don't give up hope
(waiting for math results).*

Break somebody's
heart

*To cause deep
emotional pain.*

Heart of stone

*Lacking empathy
or feeling...*

Crafting the Voice: Contracted Forms

I have an even
greater need...

She is going to
read it.



*Shortened,
conversational*

*I've an even greater
need...*

She's going to read it.

The Rule

Diaries use contracted forms (writing with an apostrophe to shorten words) to mimic actual human speech. This breaks the barrier between author and reader, creating an intimate, conversational tone.

Diaries as Eyewitness History

Amsterdam, 1942

Anne Frank

Hides from Nazi occupation in Amsterdam, recording the daily psychological and physical realities of persecution.

Recording the unthinkable in real-time



London, 1666

Samuel Pepys

Wakes at 3 A.M. to record the terrifying spread of the Great Fire of London, noting 300 houses burning by London Bridge.

Eyewitness to a historic catastrophe

Synthesis Insight

Both documents began as entirely private, informal musings. Because paper has "patience," they survived to become priceless, unfiltered historical records of global tragedies.



The Ultimate Sanctuary: The Inner Escape

Don't bite your nails! Sit up straight!

The Connection: Just as Anne Frank uses her diary to escape the suffocating terror of the Annex and assert her identity, the child in the poem Amanda! uses her imagination to escape the suffocating control of nagging parents.

Whether imagining oneself as a mermaid drifting in an emerald sea, an orphan roaming free, or simply inventing a friend named Kitty to laugh at a math teacher—the human mind uses language to claim freedom when physical freedom is denied. The silence is golden; the written voice is sweet.