



1. Renia begins her diary when she is fourteen years old. What sort of life does she and her family have? What makes her unique from others her age?
2. Renia writes poetry throughout her diary and has aspirations to one day be a professional writer. How did Renia use poetry to express her feelings? What are some of the characteristics of her poems? Are all her poems marked by the same tone, or does it shift depending on the nature of the poem?
3. As you read Renia's thoughts and daily reflections, how does she seem like a typical teenager? In what ways does her behavior reflect her age and in what ways is she influenced by the time in which she lived?
4. How many different personas or roles or ways of looking at herself does Renia employ in her diary?
5. Discuss Renia's relationship with her mother. How does she deal with her mother's extended absence? How do you think this absence affected Renia's behavior and her writing?
6. Renia starts dating Zygmunt early in the diary, and he would become a major presence in her life and the diary. Discuss their relationship and its qualities, and how love influences Zygmunt's actions both during and after the war.
7. Compare the tone Renia uses in her diary to describe her romantic life with the one she uses to describe her day to day living under occupation. What are the similarities and the differences?
8. Borders, of cities and of countries, are a big part of Renia's life. On page 49, Renia talks about her feelings about borders. Discuss her thoughts here and how physical barriers impacted her and her family.

*Discussion
Questions*



9. Discuss the poem on p. 148 that begins "Be merry, friend and laugh." What is Renia saying in the poem? How does it reveal her personality and spirit?
10. The tone of the diary shifts after July 1, 1941, discuss what happened on this day in Renia's life and community and how it is represented in her diary.
11. On page 308, Renia's sister Elizabeth reflects on Renia's ability to understand the gravity of their situation during the period covered by the diary. Do you agree with her portrayal of her sister? What specific moments in the diary reveal Renia's full awareness of events surrounding her family?
12. Many have compared *Renia's Diary* to *The Diary of Anne Frank*, how would you compare the two? In what significant ways are they different?