

Bookfolio for **The Upstairs Room**

Author: [Johanna Reiss](#)

First Publication Date: 1972

Publisher: Crowell

ISBN: 0690851278

Recommended for: [Grades 4-6](#)

Classification: Nonfiction

Genre: [Autobiography](#)

MultiCulture: Jewish American

Story Summary: THE UPSTAIRS ROOM is based on the true story of Johanna Reiss and her sister who were forced to go into hiding because they were Jewish. The story covers the time from 1938 to 1944 which they spent in Holland.

Ten-year-old Annie and her older sister Sini are hidden first by the Hanninks' where they expect to remain for only a few weeks. They are then sheltered by the Oostervelds' where a two-week stay stretched into more than two years. Despite having to remain in two small, cramped rooms, Annie learns to get along with her sister, Sini. The kindness and the cleverness of the Oostervelds prevents the girls from being discovered by the Germans. Even though the Germans actually take up residence in the farmhouse and turn it into their headquarters, the girls, who must remain in bed day and night, survive undiscovered until the end of the war.

Read-aloud Recommendation: Chapter 4, pages 43-59

The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:
R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing

The Upstairs Room - Independent Activities	Skills
1. A Personal Account (Writing a personal experience)	S , W
2. A Visit to the Farm (Writing diary entries)	S , W
3. If I Were Annie (Writing about a story event)	S , W
4. Dear Rachel (Writing a letter)	W
5. Hitler Youth Movement (Writing a report)	R , W
6. The Netherlands (Drawing a map)	D
The Upstairs Room - Group Activities	Skills
1. The Book I Would Choose (Selecting favorite books)	L , S
2. Readers Theatre (Presenting a Readers Theatre)	L , S
3. Letter Exchange (Writing letters)	W
4. Emotional Scars (Reading and sharing the sequel)	R , S , W
5. The Historical Background (Discussing historical events)	R , S , W
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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