

Max's Magnificent Market Diary

Learning objective: To identify the features of a personal diary entry and infer the thoughts and feelings of the writer.

Read the diary entry below written by Max the monkey. Pay close attention to how he describes his day at the market. Answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

14th July. Today was a day of numerical marvels! I ventured to the local town square to observe the bustling market. My mission was to calculate the total cost of a fruit salad for the BookFlik picnic. I carefully recorded the prices in my pocket notebook: crisp apples at 40p each, golden bananas for 25p, and sweet strawberries at £1.20 per punnet.

I felt quite triumphant as I tallied up the figures, ensuring I stayed within my budget of £5.00. However, the true challenge arose when a sudden gust of wind scattered the stallholder's display of oranges! I spent twenty minutes assisting him in sorting them by size. It was a chaotic, tumbling puzzle, but I rather enjoyed the challenge of organising the fruit back into neat, geometric patterns. By the time I arrived home, my satchel was heavy with fresh treats and my brain was buzzing with new addition problems. I must remember to bring a stronger bag next time, as the weight of the fruit was quite a surprise. Writing these events down helps me appreciate the hidden maths in every single day.

Word bank: chronological · reflection · personal · anecdote · perspective · observations

1. List the three items Max bought and state their individual prices. (2 marks)

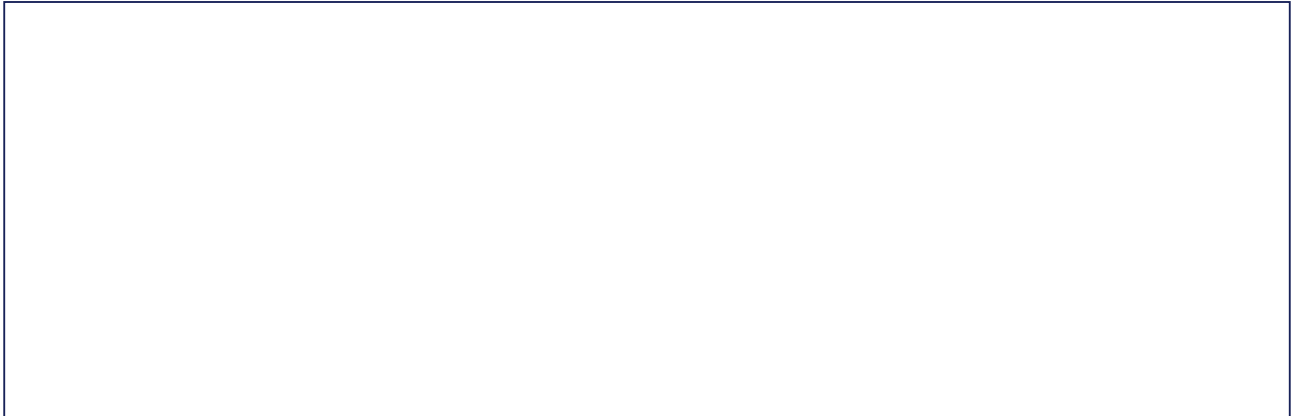
2. What specific task did Max spend twenty minutes doing at the market? (1 mark)

3. Why does Max feel 'triumphant' when tallying up his figures? (2 marks)

4. What does the passage suggest about Max's personality? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max enjoyed his day despite the unexpected gust of wind? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of Max the monkey at the market, including the scattered oranges and his notebook where he is calculating his budget.



Extension challenge: Max loves to find patterns in everything. Write a short diary entry from the perspective of another character, such as Pip the caterpillar or Nova the owl, describing a day out. How would their observations differ from Max's mathematical focus? Explain why the tone of your diary entry changes based on the character you choose.