

A Day in the Life: Diary Writing with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use fronted adverbials and descriptive language to structure a diary entry from a first-person perspective.

Read the passage below. Use the questions to build your own diary entry as if you were Max the Monkey during one of his mathematical adventures. Remember to use the first-person ('I'), keep your events in chronological order, and include your thoughts and feelings.

Dear Diary, I never imagined that my morning walk through the jungle would turn into such a complex mathematical challenge involving a stack of coconuts and a very confused parrot.

Word bank: Suddenly · Surprisingly · Without warning · Eventually · Following that · Frustratingly · Incredibly · Remarkably · As soon as · Meanwhile

1. Setting the Scene: Where were you and what were you doing when the main event began? Start with a fronted adverbial... (2 marks)

2. The Challenge: Describe the problem you encountered. How did you feel when you first realised something was not quite right? (2 marks)

3. The Solution: Explain the steps you took to solve the problem. Why did you choose that specific method? (3 marks)

4. Reflection: Looking back on the day, how has this experience changed the way you think about maths? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

5. Compare and Contrast: If you had asked Pip the caterpillar to help you solve this problem, how might their approach have been different to yours? (3 marks)

6. Creative Extension: What might happen if you woke up tomorrow and found that all the numbers in the world had disappeared? Write a short prediction. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Re-read your diary entry. Can you identify two places where you could improve your vocabulary by replacing a 'boring' verb with a more precise, ambitious alternative? Explain why your new word is more effective.