

A Day in the Life: Diary Writing with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To identify the features of a diary entry and write a recount from a first-person perspective.

Read Leo the Lion's diary entry below. Pay close attention to how he describes his feelings and the order of events. Then, answer the questions to show your understanding of diary writing.

14th October. Today was one of the most exciting days I have had in the savanna. I woke up just as the golden sun began to peek over the horizon, feeling rather nervous about our group expedition. Leo, that's me, had been chosen to lead the team through the tall, whispering grass to find the Hidden Watering Hole. By mid-morning, my paws were tired, but I kept my chin held high to encourage the others. We eventually reached the water, and the view was breath-taking! I felt incredibly proud of our team for staying focused. Tonight, as I curl up under the stars, I feel content. I cannot wait to see what tomorrow brings.

Word bank: chronological · first-person · past tense · emotive language · personal reflection · adverbial phrases

1. Identify two features from the text that show this is a diary entry. (2 marks)

2. Find and copy one example of emotive language Leo uses to describe his feelings. (1 mark)

3. Why is this text written in the first-person? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

4. Which tense is used throughout the passage? Give an example to support your answer. (2 marks)

5. If Leo had spent £15 on new maps and £8 on snacks for the journey, how much did he spend in total? Show your working. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Leo the Lion standing by the Hidden Watering Hole, including at least three details mentioned in his diary entry.



Extension challenge: Write a diary entry for tomorrow. Imagine you are Leo and write about how you prepare for a new adventure. Remember to use the first-person perspective and include at least two time-related adverbials (e.g., 'Just before dawn', 'After a while').