

A Day in the Life: A Victorian Perspective

Learning objective: To write a descriptive diary entry from the perspective of a child living during the Victorian era, using historical knowledge and appropriate vocabulary.

Use the prompts below to structure your diary entry. Imagine you are a child in the 1880s. Think about your daily chores, your school lessons, and the clothes you might wear. Use the word bank to add detail and flow to your writing.

The grey morning light crept through the window pane, signalling that it was time for the arduous tasks of the day to begin.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in addition to · exhausting · industrious · soot-covered · scarcely · nevertheless · whilst · dreadfully

1. Morning Routine: Describe your morning chores or your journey to school. Start with: As the clock chimed six, I... (3 marks)

2. The Schoolroom: Explain what your classroom was like and what you learnt. Start with: Upon arriving at school, the atmosphere was... (3 marks)

3. Living Conditions: Compare your life to children of different social classes. Explain why some children had to work in factories or mines. Start with: Whilst I was fortunate enough to attend lessons, many other children... (4 marks)

4. Reflection: Justify why the Victorian era was a time of both great invention and great hardship. Start with: Looking back on my day, I believe that this era is... (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine Ellie the elephant has travelled back in time to visit a Victorian street. Write a short paragraph explaining what she might find most surprising about the differences between her home and the Victorian world. Use the phrase: 'In contrast to the modern world...'