

Grade 4 ELA Assessment: The Art of Diary Writing

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the features, tone, and structure of a diary entry.

Read the passage provided and answer the questions below. Ensure your answers are written in full sentences where required. Write clearly and check your spelling and punctuation.

14th October. Dear Diary, today was one of those days where everything seemed to go wrong, but then ended perfectly! I woke up and realized I had forgotten to finish my project about the solar system. My heart sank. I rushed to my desk, but then Nova the owl landed on my window ledge. She spent the whole morning helping me label the planets and explaining the orbit of Mars. I felt so relieved when I finally finished it. Later, we went to the woods to collect fall leaves for art class. I found a bright red maple leaf that looked just like a star. I am feeling very tired now, but I am proud of what I achieved.

Word bank: first-person · chronological · past tense · emotive language · informal · reflection · colloquialism

1. Identify which person the diary entry is written in (e.g., first, second, or third person) and provide one piece of evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the author uses the past tense for most of the entry. (2 marks)

3. Find and copy two examples of emotive language used in the passage to describe how the writer felt. (2 marks)

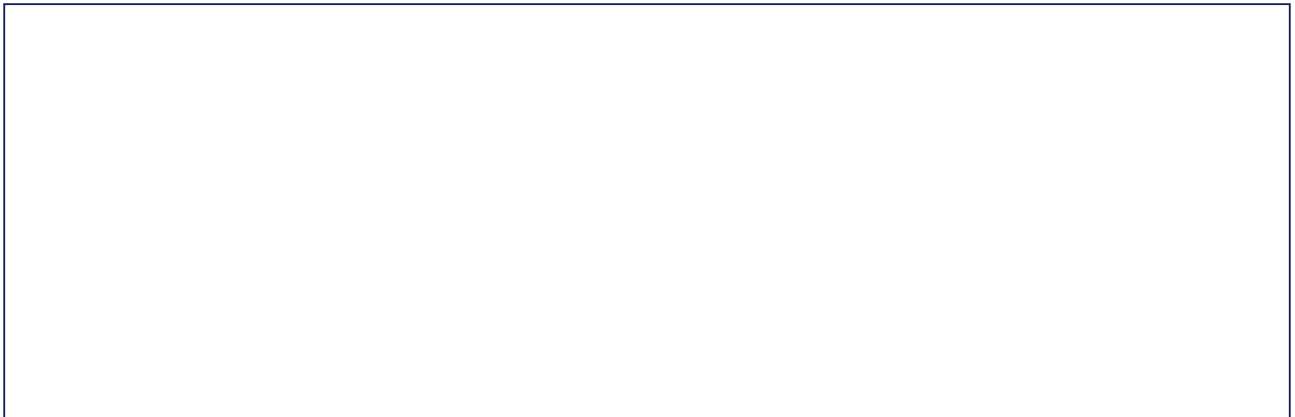
4. Why is it important for a diary entry to be written in chronological order? (3 marks)

5. How does the tone of this diary entry change from the beginning to the end? Use examples from the text to support your answer. (4 marks)

6. What is the purpose of the date at the top of the entry? Why might a writer include this? (2 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are Max the monkey. Write a diary entry (approx. 80-100 words) describing a day where you had to solve a tricky math puzzle to help a friend. Use informal language, the first-person perspective, and include at least two feelings or thoughts. (10 marks)

Draw: Draw a small sketch of the scene described in the passage where Nova the owl is helping the writer with their solar system project.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Write a short paragraph explaining how a diary entry differs from a formal report about the same event.