

A Day in the Life of a Stargazer

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

Read the diary entry below written by Nova the owl, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

14th October. Dear Diary, tonight the sky was a velvet canvas, clear and crisp. I perched atop the old oak tree, my telescope adjusted perfectly. I've been waiting all week for a glimpse of the shifting constellations, and finally, the clouds parted. As I stared upwards, I felt tiny, yet connected to the vast, shimmering universe. It is fascinating how the stars remain constant while we change below. I sketched the position of the North Star in my notebook, ensuring my measurements were precise. My wings felt a little stiff from the chilly night air, so I tucked them close to my feathers for warmth. Before heading home, I treated myself to a small snack of dried berries I had saved in my satchel. It cost me £2.50 at the market yesterday, but they are worth every penny for a midnight feast. I am exhausted now, but my heart feels full. Tomorrow, I plan to visit Leo to share my findings. Recording these moments makes the memories feel permanent, like a map of my own growth.

Word bank: chronological · reflection · perspective · past tense · first person · emotive language

1. Where did Nova go to observe the stars, and what equipment did she use? (2 marks)

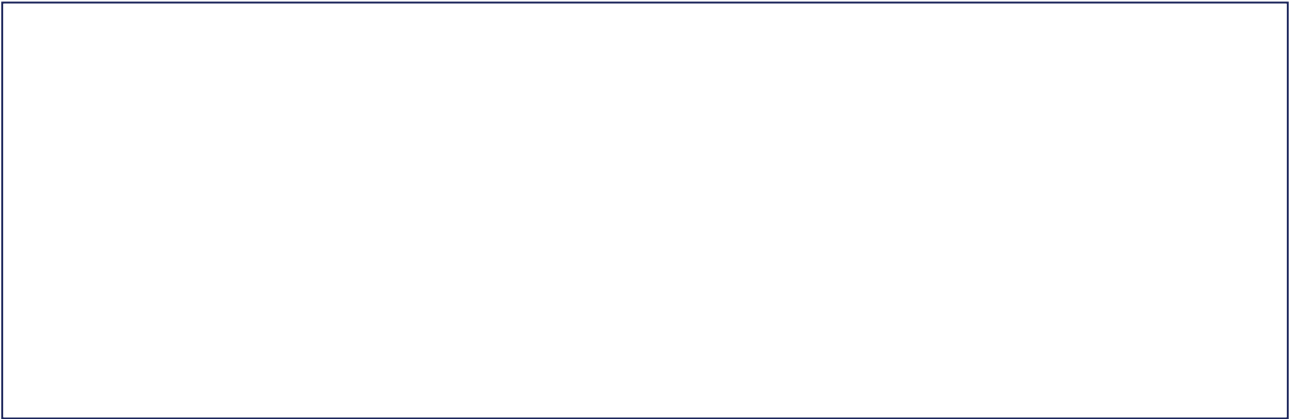
2. How much did Nova spend on her snack, and when did she purchase it? (2 marks)

3. Why does Nova feel 'tiny' while looking at the stars? (2 marks)

4. What evidence suggests that Nova is a well-prepared and organized individual? (2 marks)

5. Do you think keeping a diary is a useful habit? Give a reason for your opinion. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Nova sitting on a branch with her telescope, looking up at a night sky filled with bright, swirling constellations.



Extension challenge: Write a diary entry from the perspective of another character (like Pip or Max) describing a simple activity they did today. Remember to use the first person and past tense.