

The Time-Traveler's Journal: Mastering Diary Entries

Learning objective: To write a compelling and emotive diary entry using the first-person perspective, temporal conjunctions, and descriptive language suitable for a Year 5 audience.

Imagine you are Max the monkey, who has just discovered a hidden map inside a dusty, ancient library book. Use the diary entry template below to recount your discovery. You must include at least three temporal conjunctions (e.g., 'meanwhile', 'subsequently', 'following this'), emotive vocabulary, and a reflection on how you felt. Use the word bank to enhance your writing.

Word bank: extraordinary · mysterious · astonishing · curiosity · trembling · anticipation · subsequently · meanwhile · furthermore · nevertheless

1. Write a diary entry from Max's perspective. Describe the moment he opened the old book and found the map. Explain why Max feels a sense of urgency about this discovery. (6 marks)

2. Justify your choice of adjectives. Why did you choose specific words to describe the map and the library setting? (4 marks)

3. Compare and contrast how Max might feel compared to Nova the owl if they were exploring the map together. How would their perspectives differ? (4 marks)

4. Explain why it is important to include personal thoughts and feelings in a diary, rather than just listing the events of the day. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if Max decides to share the map with the rest of the BookFlik group? Predict two possible outcomes. (4 marks)

6. If the map leads to a hidden treasure that costs £500, but Max decides to donate it to a museum instead, explain why he might make that decision. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw the map that Max found. Include intricate details like compass roses, mysterious symbols, and faded landmarks to show it is an ancient document.



Extension challenge: Write a 'secret' paragraph at the bottom of your diary entry using a different tone. Perhaps Max is worried about who might be following him. Use a range of sophisticated sentence structures, including fronted adverbials, to create suspense.