

Diary Discovery: A Year 5 Masterclass

Learning objective: To identify the key features of diary writing, including person, tense, and emotive language, whilst demonstrating an understanding of diary structure.

Join Pip the bookworm and Max the monkey for a quick-fire challenge! Read the diary extract below and answer the 10 questions to test your knowledge of narrative writing.

Monday 12th October. Today was the most extraordinary day at the science fair! I felt a flutter of nervous excitement as I arrived. By midday, my experiment had actually worked, which left me feeling incredibly proud of my hard work. I hope tomorrow is just as adventurous as today was.

Word bank: Chronological · First-person · Emotive · Reflective · Past tense · Conjunctions · Adverbials · Informal

1. 1. Which point of view is used in a diary entry? (A) First-person * (B) Second-person (C) Third-person (D) Omniscient (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Diary entries should always be written in the future tense. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the main purpose of including emotive language in a diary? (A) To describe the weather (B) To share feelings and reactions * (C) To confuse the reader (D) To list facts (1 mark)

4. 4. Give a one-word answer: In what order should diary events be written? (1 mark)

5. 5. Identify a time adverbial used in the passage provided. (1 mark)

6. 6. Which of these is a feature of a diary entry? (A) A list of ingredients (B) A formal letter sign-off (C) A date at the top * (D) A bibliography (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: It is common to use informal, chatty language when writing a diary. (1 mark)

8. 8. Why might a writer use a rhetorical question in their diary? (A) To show their internal thoughts and wonderings * (B) To ask the reader for money (C) To prove they can use punctuation (D) To write a formal report (1 mark)

9. 9. Give a one-word answer: What do we call the act of thinking back on the day's events? (1 mark)

10. 10. In the passage, what feeling did the narrator describe? (A) Anger (B) Nervous excitement * (C) Boredom (D) Jealousy (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a secret diary with a lock on the front, surrounded by symbols of the things you did today, like a football, a book, or a paintbrush.



Extension challenge: Explain why it is important for a diary writer to include their inner thoughts rather than just a list of events. Compare and contrast a diary entry with a formal newspaper report—what might happen if a diary was written like a newspaper report? Justify your answer.