

A Day in the Life: Diary Writing Mastery

Learning objective: To write a compelling diary entry using the first-person perspective, past tense, and emotive language to convey personal experiences and reflections.

Imagine you have just spent a day exploring the Great Forest with Leo the Lion. Use your knowledge of diary writing—including the use of relative clauses, fronted adverbials, and descriptive imagery—to recount your adventures. Ensure your tone is reflective and personal.

Word bank: exhilarating · trepidation · vividly · perspective · subsequently · melancholy · breathtaking · chronological

1. Identify two features of a diary entry that distinguish it from a formal report. Explain why these features are essential for establishing a personal tone. (2 marks)

2. Rewrite the following sentence using a fronted adverbial to add detail: 'Leo roared at the sunrise.' (1 mark)

3. Explain why it is vital to maintain a consistent past tense when writing a recount of events. What might happen to the reader's understanding if the tense shifts unexpectedly? (2 marks)

4. Compose a complex sentence using a relative clause that describes an object you discovered in the forest. Ensure it begins with 'which' or 'who'. (2 marks)

5. Justify why an author might choose to use emotive vocabulary, such as 'exhaustion' or 'delight', rather than simple adjectives like 'tired' or 'happy' in a diary entry. (2 marks)

6. Compare and contrast the perspective of a diary entry with that of a biography. Why does the 'I' pronoun change the way the reader interacts with the text? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of a scene from your forest adventure with Leo the Lion. Include one specific detail from your diary entry in the illustration, such as a mysterious ancient tree or a golden sunset.



Extension challenge: Write a three-paragraph diary entry from the perspective of Leo the Lion reflecting on the same day. How does his perspective of the forest differ from a human's perspective? Use at least three words from the word bank and include a rhetorical question to show his inner thoughts.