

A Day in the Life: Diary Writing with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use informal language, first-person perspective, and emotive vocabulary to recount events in chronological order.

Max the Monkey has had a very busy day solving mathematical puzzles in the jungle! Use this diary scaffold to write your own entry from Max's point of view. Focus on using time-based connectives and describing how you felt about your discoveries.

Dear Diary, today the jungle canopy felt like one giant, complex equation waiting to be balanced, and I was determined to find the solution.

Word bank: subsequently · astonishingly · furthermore · in the blink of an eye · frustratingly · nevertheless · without a shadow of a doubt · whilst · meanwhile

1. The Morning Mystery: Describe the first task you faced today. How did you feel when you first encountered this challenge? Start with: As the sun began to filter through the leaves... (2 marks)

2. The Midday Calculation: Explain the steps you took to solve your puzzle. Why did you choose this specific method? Start with: By midday, I realised that the pattern was... (3 marks)

3. The Unexpected Twist: What happened that you didn't plan for? Justify why this change of events was either helpful or problematic. Start with: Suddenly, an unforeseen complication arose when... (3 marks)

4. Reflections on the Day: Compare your feelings at the start of the day with how you feel now. What have you learnt from this experience? Start with: Looking back on the day's events, I have concluded that... (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: Imagine you are a different character, such as Pip the Bookworm, observing Max's day from afar. Write a short paragraph explaining why Max's approach to solving problems might be different from your own. Justify your answer by referencing his personality traits. What might happen if you and Max worked together on the same puzzle?