A Day in the Life: Diary Detective

Learning objective: To identify and use the features of diary writing, including first-person perspective, chronological order, and emotive language.

Max the monkey has been keeping a secret diary of his adventures in the forest, but he has mixed up his entries! Read the jumbled sentences below and sort them into the correct chronological order (1-6) to tell the story of his day. Then, identify the language features that make this a diary entry.

Word bank: First-person pronouns · Chronological order · Emotive language · Past tense · Time conjunctions · Informal tone

1. 1. 'I felt incredibly frustrated when my puzzle pieces slid off the branch.' 2. 'First, I woke up to the sun peeking through the canopy.' 3. 'After a quick snack of bananas, I decided to count the leaves on the ancient oak tree.' 4. 'Finally, I curled up to sleep, feeling proud of my hard work.' 5. 'Then, I spent the afternoon trying to sort my collection of smooth river stones.' 6. 'Next, I noticed the shadows stretching long across the forest floor.' Place these in order (1-6) and explain why 'I' and 'my' are used instead of 'Max'. (4 marks)

2. Why is it important for a diary entry to be written in the past tense? (2 marks)

3. Identify two time conjunctions used in the sentences above that help the reader follow the sequence of events. (2 marks)

4. Which sentence from the list contains 'emotive language'? Write it out and explain how it shows Max's feelings. (3 marks)

5. If Max were writing his diary, would he use formal or informal language? Give an example of a word he might use to sound informal. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a small sketch of Max the monkey sitting in a tree with his diary. Include one item he mentioned in his day, such as a pile of river stones or a banana peel.

Extension challenge: Write one extra diary entry for Max. Imagine he found a shiny, mysterious object in the woods. Use at least two time conjunctions and one piece of emotive language to describe his discovery.