Year 6 English Assessment: The Art of Diary Writing

Learning objective: To demonstrate the ability to use formal and informal language, first-person perspective, and emotive vocabulary to reflect on personal experiences in a diary entry.

Read the passage provided by Pip the bookworm and answer the questions that follow. Ensure you use your best handwriting and check your spelling and punctuation.

Pip the bookworm sat on a giant oak leaf, scribbling into a tiny notebook. 'Today was quite a day,' Pip wrote. 'I woke up before the sun, feeling nervous about the Great Forest Library opening. When I arrived, the shelves were empty! My heart sank like a stone. But then, as the dew settled, animals from all over the woods arrived, each carrying a story to share. By midday, the library was overflowing with books. I felt absolutely exhilarated to see our community come together like that.'

Word bank: Chronological · First-person · Reflective · Emotive language · Tense consistency · Adverbial phrases · Colloquialism

1. Identify which person the passage is written in and explain why this is suitable for a diary entry. (2 marks)

2. Find and copy one example of a simile from the passage. Why does the author use this to convey Pip's feelings? (2 marks)

3. Diary entries are usually written in chronological order. Why is this important for the reader to understand what happened? (2 marks)

4. Explain the difference between 'formal' and 'informal' language. Give an example of how you might adapt a sentence to sound more informal in a private diary. (4 marks)

5. Look at the phrase 'I felt absolutely exhilarated'. If you were writing this entry, how could you use a show-not-tell technique to describe this feeling instead of using the word 'exhilarated'? (3 marks)

6. Imagine you are Max the monkey. Write a diary entry of approximately 80-100 words about a day you spent trying to solve a complex maths puzzle in the jungle. Ensure you use the first-person, reflect on your emotions, and maintain tense consistency. (12 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of Pip’s diary page, including a small illustration of the Great Forest Library in the corner.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Rewrite one of your sentences from the final writing task using a fronted adverbial to add more detail about the setting or time.