Diary Entries: A Day in the Life of a Time-Traveller

Learning objective: To identify and use the features of a diary entry, including informal tone, first-person perspective, and the use of the past tense.

Read the diary entry written by Kit the fox, who has just finished building a new time-travelling gadget. Then, answer the questions below to test your understanding of diary writing techniques.

14th October. Dear Diary, I can hardly believe it! Today was the day I finally finished my mechanical compass. My paws were shaking with excitement as I tightened the final bolt. It looked perfect, gleaming under the workshop lights. At 10:00 am, I plugged in the power source. There was a sudden, brilliant flash of blue light and the whole workshop started to hum. I felt a little nervous, but mostly thrilled. I wonder where—or when—this gadget will take me tomorrow? I am going to pack my bag tonight just in case. I hope it's somewhere with plenty of snacks!

Word bank: chronological · first-person · recount · informal · emotive language · past tense

1. Identify which person (first, second, or third) this diary is written in and provide an example from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

2. Why does Kit use the past tense to describe the events of the day? (2 marks)

3. Find and copy one example of emotive language used in the passage that shows how Kit is feeling. (1 mark)

4. Diary entries often include a date. Why is this important for a diary? (2 marks)

5. If you were writing a diary entry about your own day, would you include your thoughts and feelings, or just a list of facts? Explain your choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw your own version of Kit’s mechanical compass. Think about what buttons, dials, or strange glowing parts it might have to help it travel through time.

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (50–80 words) continuing Kit’s diary entry. Describe what happens when Kit finally presses the button on the compass to start the journey.