A Day in the Life: Diary Writing Skills

Learning objective: To use the first-person perspective, chronological order, and emotive language to recount personal experiences in a diary entry.

Read each question carefully and apply your knowledge of formal and informal writing techniques. Remember to use the first-person pronoun 'I' and focus on the thoughts and feelings behind the events.

No passage provided; use your own experiences or imagine a day spent with Nova the owl exploring the night sky.

Word bank: chronological · perspective · recount · emotive · reflection · informal · past tense

1. Explain why diary entries are usually written in the first person. What effect does this have on the reader? (2 marks)

2. If you were writing a diary entry about a busy day at school, why is it important to keep your events in chronological order? (2 marks)

3. Rewrite this factual sentence to make it more emotive: 'I went to the park and saw a bird.' (2 marks)

4. A diary entry often includes a 'reflection' at the end. What is the difference between a description of an event and a reflection on that event? (3 marks)

5. You are writing a diary entry about a day where you accidentally spent £15.50 on a book you didn't need. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) expressing your feelings about this purchase using informal, diary-style language. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from a memorable day in your life. Around the border of your drawing, write three 'diary scribbles'—short phrases capturing how you felt during that day.

Extension challenge: Write a diary entry from the perspective of Max the monkey. He has spent the entire day trying to solve a complex math puzzle but keeps getting the wrong answer. Ensure you include his frustration, his persistence, and his final realisation.