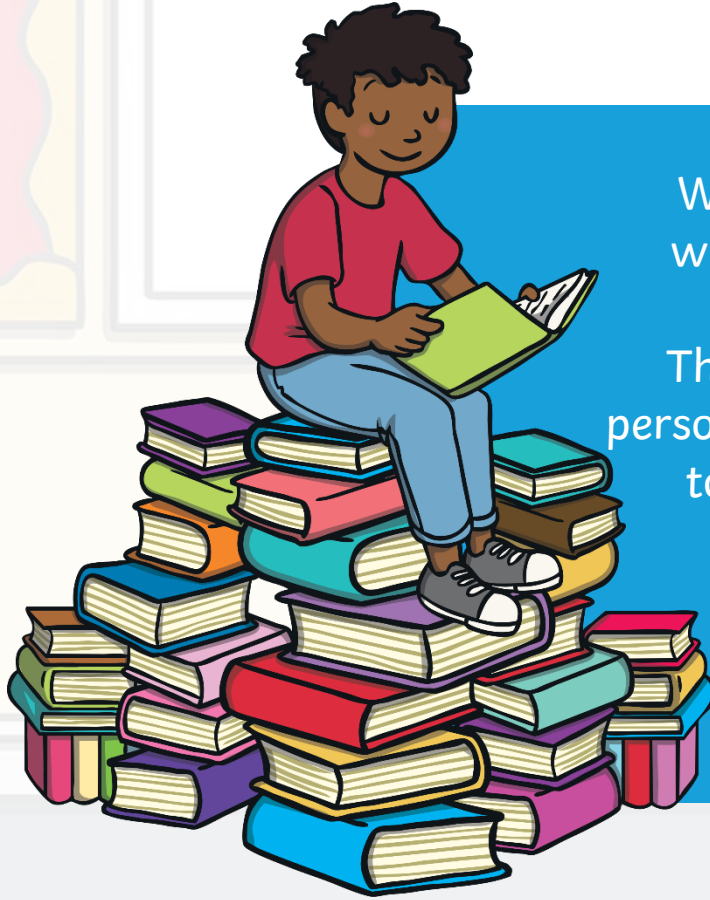


Tomorrow we are going to write a Diary Entry as Mary Anning. We are going to write it as if we are Mary Anning and write on the day she found the huge creature!

Writing a Diary Entry



When you write a diary entry, you are writing about a day in the life of a real person or character.

The diary entry needs to sound as if the person or character has written it, so it needs to be written from their point of view.

It also needs to be exciting and interesting to read.

To get this right,
just follow a few easy steps...

Diary Writing Must...



include the date and/or time

The date or time can be written at the top of the page like this...

Diary of a Young Pirate

Friday 13th October 1718

Dear diary,

I was woken up at dawn as usual, by the crew singing rude sea shanties on deck. I jumped out of my hammock, pulled on my ragged clothes and then, got on with my daily chores.

or it can be included in the first few sentences of a diary entry like this...

'It is past **midnight** but I am still wide awake because my day has been so exciting.'

This is important because it tells the reader exactly **when** the diary is being written.

Task 1: Have a look through the story. Can you find the year the story was set?

Diary Writing Must...



use the words 'I', 'my', 'we' and 'our'

These words are special because they tell us the diary is being written **by** someone and they are talking about **themselves**. We call this kind of writing '**first person**'. Look at these two examples. Which one uses the correct words to be written in '**first person**'?

I played with the new football I got for **my** birthday.
When **my** brother came home, **we** went inside **our** house. **First person!**

She played with the new football she got for **her** birthday.
When **her** brother got home, **they** went inside **their** house. **Not first person!**

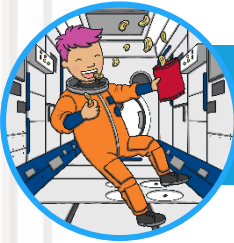


Task 2: We need to write as if we are Mary Anning as it is her diary entry.

Which sentence below is correctly written for a diary entry?

- 1) I could not believe my eyes! A huge creature was staring me in the face. Am I dreaming?
- 2) Mary Anning could not believe her eyes! A huge creature was staring her in the face. Was she dreaming?

Diary Writing Must...



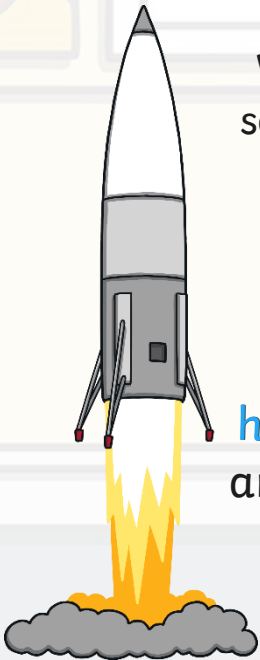
write as if you were there

When we write a diary, we have to make the reader think we were really there.

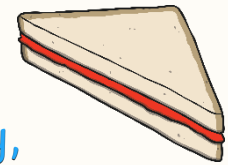
We can do this by including lots of detail and description.

Look at the example below.

What extra detail and description could you add to make it sound as if it was written by someone who was really there?



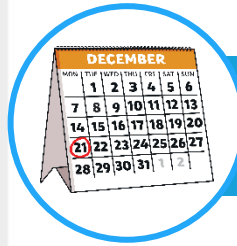
My **noisy, trustworthy** rocket landed on the **rocky, uninviting** moon at **exactly** 5 o'clock. I met some **hilarious, spotty** aliens **who live in dark, gloomy craters** and we had a picnic **of jam sandwiches and moon cakes.**



Task 3: Can you add more detail to the sentence below to make it seem like you were really there! What could you see, hear, smell? What were you thinking and feeling?

I found a creature. It was big.

Diary Writing Must...



Task 4: put the most important events in order

In a diary, we usually write about the events of our day in the order they happened, starting with what we did first when we woke up and finishing with the end of our day.

We only include the most important or interesting events.

Look at the sentences below.

What order should they go in if they were part of a diary entry?

I woke up early and joined up to the battle in the plain at first.

I woke up late and joined the king's army for breakfast.

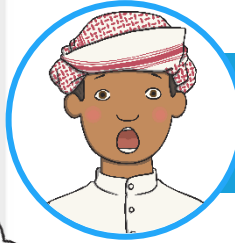
In the afternoon I was practicing sword fighting in the castle yard.

I fell asleep overnight but what I learned to do was my sword skills.

Click to reveal the correct order



Diary Writing Must...



describe feelings

A diary is usually a secret place to write how you feel about what has happened to you in the day.

In a diary, you might include feelings, hopes or fears that you wouldn't want anyone to know about.

Look at the examples below.

Where have these diary writers described their feelings?

I changed the poorly soldiers' bandages and cleaned their wounds. Some of the injuries **made me feel sick** to look at but I didn't let my **disgust** show.

I couldn't believe we'd won The World Cup! I was **flooded with disbelief** and my whole body tingled with **excitement and pride**.



Task 5: When Mary found the creature, she has a crowd of people shouting things at her. Mary didn't say anything to them but what do you think she might have wanted to say to them and would write in her diary instead? A diary is something no one else reads so it somewhere people write things that they might not say in real life. It is where people write very honest things. For example she might have written

'I wish they had not shouted like that, it was very distracting! I wanted to tell them to be quiet!'

