

Literacy

We are going to continue with diary entries. Diary entries are important as they can help us to understand history from the perspective of people alive at the time.

There are lots of videos on this website from authors, showing you how to write a diary or where to get inspiration from: <https://www.ourcoronadiary.com/ages-8-to-12>
It has been set up specifically to help people write diary entries whilst in lockdown.

Activity 1:

Look at your diary entry from last week and make a list of the key events. Then think how someone else in your family or another character would have felt or acted at the same time. Write down their feelings and actions next to the key events.

Activity 2:

Rewrite your diary entry from the new characters perspective. Try to write at least 15 sentences but it can be longer if you wish. Please use the skills below and have a read of my modelled example to help you.

Skills to use:

Thoughts/Feelings/Emotions - a slight knot in my stomach, I'm starting to think that, After what felt like forever

Short sentences for effect - Then, I remembered. No it wasn't

Contractions & Colloquial language – mate, didn't, won't

Original Entry

As I made my way downstairs, still wearing in my PJs, I wondered what I could do today. Play Xbox. Make a new TikTok video. Go on House Party with my mates. Then, mum spoke, "After breakfast, we're going to do some home schooling." I didn't like doing my work at school, why would I want to do it at home? I looked on the computer and mum had opened the school website. Staring back at me was the work set by Mrs Schofield. It didn't look that bad.

New Perspective Entry

Thud, thud, thud. Can't he just walk down the stairs sensibly? I could already feel myself preparing for the war ahead of me. Convincing him to do his work was not going to be an easy task. I knew my timing had to be right so I waited until he had a mouth full of bacon sandwich. Then I said it. "After breakfast, we're going to do some home schooling." The words came out more controlled than I thought they would. I turned the laptop to face him. I held my breath waiting for a response. Shrug. "OK" he said. A wave of calm came over me as I exhaled. Phew! Today was going to be a good day.

Skills

Thoughts/Feelings/Emotions

Short sentences for effect

Contractions & Colloquial language

HOW TO WRITE A: DIARY

Colloquial Language
You should try to use chatty/informal language.

Follow a "Diary Style"
Start each entry with a date and "Dear Diary".

First person
Remember to use personal pronouns (in particular: I/We)

Chronological order
Your diary should be in time order, using adverbials.

Self-reflection
Try to include your thoughts, feelings, opinions and hopes (inside speech marks).

Past Tense
A diary is about what has already happened.

Detailed descriptions
Remember to use more than one sense, to make your description more imaginable. Similes and metaphors can also be effective.

