

Literacy

We are going to move onto 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:

Think of a day in lockdown. It might have been an exciting day where you did lots of things at home or it may be a day where you were quite bored and didn't do very much. You can make up the day if you would prefer. Use the planning sheet below to help you to think of you order your ideas.

Activity 2:

Write your diary of the day you have chosen. 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

Introduction:

Events (what happened?):

Feelings (how you felt?):

Descriptions you could use:

I woke up to the light poking its way through my curtains. **Confusion wafted over me** with the smell of bacon cooking downstairs. Surely, it **couldn't** be Saturday. Then, I remembered. No it wasn't. With a slight knot in my stomach, a smile crept over my face. **No school today. In fact, no school any day.** We are in what the Government call lockdown.

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.

After what felt like forever, mum finally said I was done and I could get out into the garden. The sun felt warm as it touched my face. I'd had an idea yesterday to build an assault course in the garden – a bit like ninja warrior but without the water and huge wall. Today was the day I was going to do it. **Excited to see what I could make,** I grabbed what I could out of the shed: buckets and a mop to make a hurdle, a small step ladder to climb over and an old net to crawl under. Once it was all set up, I challenged my family to a race. Naturally, I was the quickest and dad just got tangled up in the net. Eventually mum had to cut him free. **I hadn't laughed that much in ages.**

The rest of the day was pretty quiet. We have some **tea** and watched TV for a bit – the usual stuff. I'm starting to think that being at home **isn't** as awful as I thought it would be. I actually quite like spending time with my family and **I'd** never made an assault course before. Maybe this lockdown won't be terrible after all.

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.

