

# Writing for Pleasure: Keeping a Diary

## Part 2

*“I can shake off everything as I write; my sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn.”*

— *Anne Frank*

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### **1. Introduction**

As noted in Part1 of this resource, we are living through unprecedented times; a phrase that has been used a lot, in the past couple of months, and continues to be very true. These are times that we will look back on and recall with various memories depending on our experiences. One way to record our memories, is by writing a diary. Apart from being a written record of events, it can be a personal and safe space to express our feelings and thoughts.

It can also be an easy way for children to start writing as it is about real life and they do not need to make-up characters and stories. They can also be written in different ways: shop bought diaries with dates already printed; blank note books; sheets of paper stapled together - handwritten, typed, pictures, no pictures...

Writing a personal diary may inspire writing a fictional one, or make other writing easier. There are also mental health benefits of being able to write down worries and questions, which may lead to working through problems or feeling able to ask others for help.

This resource is aimed at less confident writers, but the resources will be useful for anyone who wants to write a diary. It includes examples and links to different types of diaries including fiction and non-fiction ones, and writing frames to support writers at differing levels of confidence with their writing.

Happy writing!

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# Writing for Pleasure: Keeping a Diary

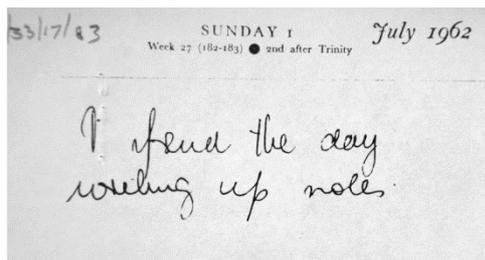
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### 2. How this resource links to the English national curriculum

A solid education in English will teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and, through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. All the skills of English language and literacy; speaking, reading and writing are essential to participating fully as a member of society.

The English national curriculum aims to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word and it is important that pupils can write clearly and accurately for different reasons and types of writing including personal texts, such as a diary.

### 3. Guidance for Parents and Carers



*'I spend the day writing up notes'*

*Conversations with Myself*

*-Nelson Mandela*

Writing is a very personal process and diary writing more so.

The aim of these resources are to inspire your child to write using their own experiences. Please look at the resources and encourage them to do the same and talk to them about writing a diary.

Look back at the examples of famous diaries from Part 1 – fiction and non-fiction –and discuss with your child how they may want to set out their diary and if they want to use any words and phrases from the diaries they have read.

Ultimately, the diary should be set out as they wish - the idea is to encourage writing freely and often but to not insist on how much they write in a day, or even if they write every day. We want writing to be pleasurable and not a chore.

The diary writing frames that come with this resource can be used, or your child may like to use a purchased diary or notebook; they could copy the way the writing frames are set out in their own book or could stick in printed copies of the writing frames. Laptops or ipads could also be used. They could try out different ways of writing their diary on different days until they find the way that suits them.

As a diary is a personal piece of writing, your child may not wish to share what they have written. If they do want to share it, focus on what they have written about and how they feel about writing the diary, rather than correcting errors in their writing. Encourage them to look back at the diary

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examples and to look at others they may find to let them see examples of good writing that they can borrow ideas from.

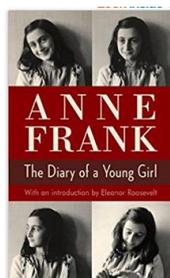
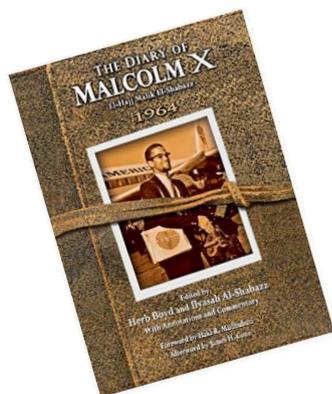
There is also a word mat attached with some suggested vocabulary and the 'Reading Strategies Suggested Prompts' from the 'Reading for Pleasure' resource (also available on this website), which can help your child to think about how to phrase questions and ideas they want to clarify.

There are many books and audio versions of diaries available online which apart from influencing your child's or children's writing style can also offer inspiration, comfort and support from reading them.

You may also want to write your own diary! This might prove useful for you for the same reasons as your child and can also help to encourage them to write.

**Please note:** some of the resources have been adapted from information on external websites and these have been acknowledged where appropriate, and several websites are also suggested below. These websites are not endorsed by The London Borough of Hackney or Hackney Learning Trust and you should view the websites and the resources to make sure that they are suitable for your child to use and that you are happy with the content and any advertising or cookies required on any sites.

### 4. Guidance for Learners



12 JUNE 1942

I hope I will be able to confide everything to you, as I have never been able to confide in anyone, and I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support.

COMMENT ADDED BY ANNE ON

28 SEPTEMBER 1942:

So far you truly have been a great source of comfort to me, and so has Kitty, whom I now write to regularly. This way of keeping a diary is much nicer, and now I can hardly wait for those moments when I'm able to write in you.

Oh, I'm so glad I brought you along!

I write songs that are like diary entries. I have to do it in order to feel sane.

Taylor Swift



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### Why keep a diary?

Look back at Part 1 of this resource to remind yourself why writing a diary is a great way to develop your writing and also to help express yourself and make sense of difficult experiences.

### How to write a diary

It helps to look at diaries written by others to see how they have set them out and what words and language they have used. Remind yourself of the extracts of famous diaries in Part1 and research others you may have researched online.

**Make sure your parents or carers are happy for you to look at the websites suggested here, and any others that you find.**

You may have liked the way some diaries have been set out and have decided how you would like yours to look. You can use the writing frames available with this resource; try a few of them to see which ones work for you – or you can type on a laptop or ipad, or use a shop bought diary or note book.

As it's personal, you should write in the first person, e.g. **I** got up early today or **We** helped to cook dinner. Of course you can talk about other people so can use other pronouns e.g. **she, he, they**.

There is a word mat attached with ideas for words and phrases to use, and you can look back at some of the diary extracts and borrow some of their phrases.

You can also use the 'Suggested Prompts', from the Reading for Pleasure resource on this website, to help you write down questions you may have about what is going on, or write about things you want to clarify or predictions you may have about what is going to happen; the summary prompts can help you set your diary out in order, perhaps if you are writing about a whole day.

### What next?

Remember your diary is for you, but you never know, it could become famous in the future so you may want to try and make it exciting and interesting for others to read!

If you enjoy writing your own diary, you may want to go have a go at writing a fictional one, pretending you are someone else, either a character and their life that you invent, or based on a real life person writing what you think they would write in their diary...

I would love to hear from you - please email me if you have any questions or would like to share your writing with me.

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5.

How will we know what we are doing is working?

### Parents/ Carers

**You will know your child is developing a love of writing when you can say,**

- *My child is keeping a diary and writing in it regularly*
- *My child collects words and phrases that they like from diaries they have read and use them in their own diary*
- *My child 'borrows' ideas that they have read and heard in other diaries to improve their writing*
- *My child can choose the best format to organise their diary*

### Learners

**You will know you are developing a love of writing when you can say,**

- *I am keeping a diary and writing in it most days*
- *I collect words and phrases that I like from diaries I have read and use them in my own diary*
- *I 'borrow' ideas that I have read and heard to improve my diary writing*
- *I chose the best way to organise and set out my diary*

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### 6. Useful websites:

<https://hackney.gov.uk/hackney-central-library> You can also access thousands of e-books, audiobooks, newspapers and magazines for free through our digital library. Just use your Hackney libraries membership. Not a member? [Join for free now](#).

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/b?node=21173577031&pf\\_rd\\_r=VQAH95PKNEYE9PKRM6QM&pf\\_rd\\_p=a5618163-2ef6-466e-b112-a4e9a5f8ffa3](https://www.amazon.co.uk/b?node=21173577031&pf_rd_r=VQAH95PKNEYE9PKRM6QM&pf_rd_p=a5618163-2ef6-466e-b112-a4e9a5f8ffa3) Enjoy a selection of free Kindle Books for you and your family. 'On this page, we give an overview of some of the Kindle Books that are currently available for free download. This selection includes public domain titles as well as Kindle Books which publishers are providing for free download for a limited time. Start reading now on any tablet or smartphone with the [free Kindle Reading App](#). Conditions apply.\*'

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>

<https://www.pepysdiary.com/> In 1660 Samuel Pepys, an increasingly-important 26 year-old civil servant in London, began writing his diary. He stopped a decade later.

This site contains the full text of his diary, along with several letters sent or received by Pepys, plus thousands of pages of further information about the people, places and things in his world.

The diary entries were published on this site daily, in real time, from January 2003 until May 2012, with readers discussing events each day. From January 2013 the diary entries will again appear on the front page at the end of the day (London time), starting with 1 January 1660.

<https://www.brainpickings.org/2014/09/04/famous-writers-on-keeping-a-diary/> Celebrated writers on the creative benefits of keeping a diary

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zjdf82/revision/1> This site relates to the Scottish National 5 qualification but has some useful information about reflective writing

<https://www.lifhack.org/articles/communication/these-8-good-things-will-happen-when-you-start-writing-diaries.html> Article- These 8 Good Things Will Happen When You Start Writing Diaries

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/how-do-i-write-a-successful-diary/z4h9y9q> Article with accompanying video

<https://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/history/historical-diaries-war-history-journal> History's greatest diaries - The most revealing, fascinating and harrowing personal diaries ever written, all of which offer a unique first-hand perspective of a momentous era in history, from World War Two to Apartheid.