

Analysing the Features of a Diary Entry

As you read through the diary entry, you might like to draw pupils' attention to the key features of a diary or to some other important features in the text.

Addresses the diary directly ¹	Written in first person ²	Rhetorical questions ³	Includes opinions as well as facts ⁴	Uses informal and chatty language ⁵
Describes author's thoughts and feelings ⁶	Inverted commas for direct speech ⁷	Events are described only from the author's perspective ⁸	Author explains the reasons for their actions ⁹	Adverbials of time ¹⁰

21st February

Dearest Diary¹,

Oh my² goodness! I've never been so frightened in all of my life!⁶ Yesterday¹⁰, I² was actually eaten by a wolf – that's right⁵, eaten – and I² lived to tell the tale. Can you¹ believe it?³ Me², Red! Or 'Little Red', as everyone seems to want to say. Amph.⁵

It all started when Mother sent me² on yet another one of her errands. Don't get me wrong,⁵ I do love to visit Granny⁶, but is it really necessary to take baskets of food all of the time?³ She couldn't get through this basket full of cupcakes even if she was having daily dinner parties with the whole village!⁴ And I do wish that mother wouldn't pester me so⁶: "No dilly-dallying, keep to the path, and never ever talk to strangers. Do you hear me?"⁷

Pester, pester, pester.⁵

Anyway⁵, off I² skipped in the beautiful sunshine, down the path to the lane and through the forest, waving to the old woodcutter as I went.⁸ It was such a lovely day⁴; animals were scampering around on the ground and birds were chirping in the

Includes date of the diary

Events organised into paragraphs

Written in chronological order

Written in past tense

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trees. I got quite carried away, until I² heard a silky-sounding voice from the shadows.⁸

I knew right away that this was one of the wolves that Mother had warned me about⁶ – he was a very fine-looking gentleman with thick hair, bright eyes and very big, white teeth.⁸ He claimed that he knew Granny, and I'm ashamed to say that I believed him⁶, Diary¹. He must have been very, very clever, because even now, I can't figure out how he knew where Granny lived.⁹

I was oh so hungry⁶, Diary¹, and the cunning wolf convinced me to stop for a snack. I² mean, my stomach was really, really gurgling!⁵ I really didn't stray from the path for long, and of course⁹, I thought that I was perfectly safe!⁶ How wrong I was.

I arrived at Granny's cottage without a care in the world, but when I walked through the door, my heart sank.⁶ Granny was sick! I could see hardly anything of her, so I leaned in close,⁸ and when I did – oh, Diary!¹ You wouldn't believe her eyes!¹ Large and yellow⁸ – I was sure that she was deathly ill. When one long ear popped out from under her

Ambitious words to describe people and settings

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nightcap, I thought that I should surely call for the doctor at once!⁶

But all that was nothing, Diary¹, compared with what I² saw next¹⁰. As she spoke to me¹⁰, Granny's quilt slipped down to reveal a muzzle with long, sharp teeth.⁸ I thought that the bottom had dropped out of my stomach, and I began to shake so violently!⁶ I² said the first thing that came to me²:

"Oh, Granny, what big teeth you have!"⁷

I suppose that I thought that it might give me a little time to think of an escape plan, if I could convince the creature that his disguise was still working.⁹ However, as I² was about to clasp my² hand around the heavy, glass vase on Granny's bedside table, the wolf's huge mouth opened up and, in an instant, everything went black.⁸

I² was actually *inside* its belly! Ugh!⁵ Pitch black, slimy and *extremely* smelly, the inside of the wolf was the worst place that I have ever been.⁸ I² have no idea how long I² was there for, Diary¹ – *too* long. I wriggled and wrestled around in the strange, cramped space, but to no avail. I could hear

Dashes to punctuate broken, informal sentences

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Granny's muffled calls, and I could feel that she was near to me, but it was just too dark to see her!⁸

After what felt like hours¹⁰, I² heard the faint voice of the old woodcutter.⁸

"Anyone home? It's only me, the woodcutter!"⁷ he called.

I² tried to scream, but the foul stench of the beast's insides caught in my² throat. As I spluttered, I felt the wolf begin to move, and all at once, bright light burst through the dark, blinding me for a moment. I propelled myself towards it and fell with a *splat* onto the floor of Granny's little cottage. As Granny tumbled out beside me, I gulped down fresh air before throwing my arms around our saviour.⁸

Once we were free¹⁰, Granny filled the beast with rocks. I know that it sounds a little extreme¹, but this way he will feel so full that he will never try to gobble up a human again!⁹ We sewed him up and kicked him back out of the door.⁸ I'd² say that there's not much chance of him causing us trouble again any time soon!⁴

As you can imagine, Diary¹, Granny and the

New line for a new speaker

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woodcutter were not best pleased that I² had led a big, bad wolf to the cottage and had strayed from the path. At least I² could soften them up a little by giving them the cupcakes that Mother had sent me² with! Mother was not so easy to talk around. I² am not allowed to walk through the forest ever again in my entire life without her by my side. Oh well, I guess⁵ I won't have to deliver food any more.⁶

I cannot wait to tell everyone in the village about this.⁶ Goldilocks will never believe it! It'll be no more 'Little Red' – more like 'Brave Red, the brilliant banisher of wolves'! Nevertheless, I² have learned to be far more careful who I talk to when I am out and about – perhaps when mother pesters me², I² should pay more attention... maybe...

Ends with the author's situation at present, after the events

Links back to the start of the entry

Shows that the author has learned something from the events

Ends wondering what the author will do next