

The Art of Diary Writing

Subject – English

Lessons –From the Diary of Anne Frank(class-7)

The Prince of Panidihing(class-8)

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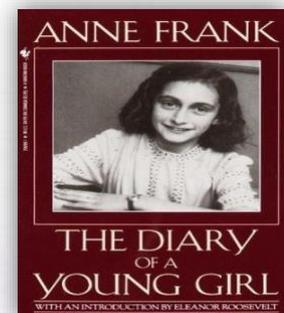
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Diary writing is a common and wonderful habit which helps to develop the writing and creative skills of learners, the practice of which has started right from the upper primary level. By the time, it has been assumed that learners have developed some command over the language and will be able to frame simple sentences of their everyday activities. Diary entry has been introduced to our learners in class seven with the help of a very beautiful lesson, **lesson no.3 , ‘From the Diary of Anne Frank’**, which is a personal record of a thirteen-year-old girl named Anne Frank. It tells the story of Anne and her family while they remained in hiding for two years during the Nazi occupation of Netherland



during World War-II . The lesson is an extract from the most famous, widely

read and translated book **‘The Diary of a Young Girl-Anne Frank’** also know as **‘The diary of Anne Frank’** published in the year 1947.The lesson is describing the events of her life when



she got Kitty (as Anne named her diary) on her birthday. The lesson is a perfect specimen to introduce learners the art of diary writing. Later, in class eight through **lesson no. 1, 'The Prince of Panidihing'** ample opportunities are provided for practice of diary entry in activity no.-9.

The teachers should take the pain to motivate the learners to develop the habit of diary writing. He/she may adopt different techniques to form this habit like- asking children to write diary entries of their everyday activities and ask them to read randomly in the class or to read a diary entry in the morning assembly of some function/celebration/ activity that was held in school on the previous day. It is upon the individual creativity and ingenuity of the teacher how he/she motivates the learners, but before that it is necessary on his/her part to know some important points of the art of diary writing . Let's begin with its definition-



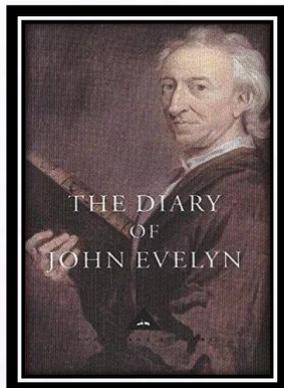
What is a diary: According to **Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary** the term 'diary' means-

“a book in which you can write down the experience you have each day, your private thoughts, etc.”

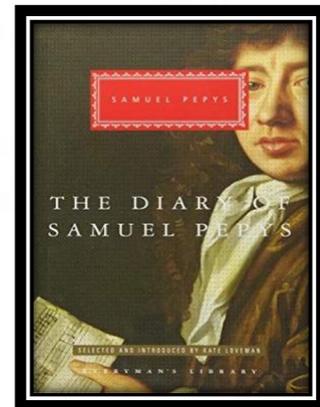
Thus, diary is a handwritten record in which one pens down the daily events and experiences or writes down one's deepest emotional experience, thoughts and feelings. In this way, a diary can assume the role of a trusted friend to whom one can share the innermost thoughts and feelings. One can also keep track of special events or landmarks in one's life through diary entries. Thus, it is a personal document. The entries are arranged by date reporting on what has happened over a course of a day or period. Someone who keeps a diary is known as a **diarist**. One can use readymade diaries with dates printed on all pages or can use a simple notebook as a diary.

Etemology and history of diary writing: The word 'diary' comes from the Latin word '*diarium*'. Writing diaries dates back to the anciant Egyptian civilization. The earliest known book resembling a diary is the '*Diary of Merer*', an ancient Egyptian logbook which describing the transportation of lime stone from Tura to Giza. Unlike the medieval age, during the Renaissance, some individuals wanted not only to record events, but also started putting down their own opinions, fears and hopes.

Although a diary may provide useful first hand information for a memoir, autobiography or biography, it is generellay written not with the intention of being published, but often peronal diaries assume historical importance by



becoming journals which provide an insight into the impact on national or international events upon the lives of the people.



They provide a human angle to history. **Samuel Pepys** and **Jhon Evelyn's** diaries are among the most important primary sources for the English Restoration period, and consist of eyewitness

accounts of many great events, such as the Great Plague of London and the Great Fire of London. It is believed that diaries give a faithful account of the life, works and times of the writer.

Benefits to write diary : Although now a days people keep blogs or vlogs, and record their lives in a journal on social media, but writing diary has its own charm and benefits.

1. It helps to keep one's thoughts organized. One can write daily events, thoughts, and feelings or about some special events and experiences of one's life.

2. Writing diary helps to improve creative and writing skills. The practice of writing diary can work as a nursery for a budding writer.

3. It helps to improve writing skills, language and handwriting of the students.

4. A diary is an appropriate place to write down one's dreams, ambitions, goals, aspirations and resolutions. By keeping them in a diary, one can monitor one's progress and feel motivated to continue to focus on one's next milestones.

5. One can also note down any new ideas or thoughts in a diary. It helps to record everything in one place, and the writer can always refer to his/her diary whenever needed. It reduces the chance to forget anything important.

7. The most important benefit of writing diary is that it helps in relieving stress. Diary can always assume the role of a trusted friend and patient listener, where one can dump up all the anxieties, frustrations and pains.

8. Writing diary provides the opportunities for self-reflection. As **Ferris Bueller** once said "***Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.***" Diary can give us the opportunity for that much needed self-reflection. Daily reflection can also be done at night before bed.

9. Regular habit of diary writing helps to boost our memory, making it easier for us to recall in future.

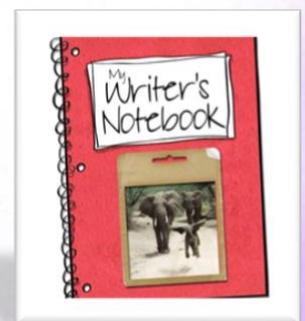
There are many more benefits of writing diaries. One will discover more when he/she starts one.



Some important points for the learners to remember of the art of diary writing:

Diary writing is one of the most personal and informal categories of writing. It can be based on personal experiences, a scene, a description or narration of certain event(s) or any other things. While making diary entries the learners should take care of the following points to make the entry more vivid and interesting. The teacher can mention these points to the learners:

- You don't have to be a great man to write a diary. You just have **to be honest** in your accounts that you have covered in your diary.
- The style of diary entries is **close to the style of personal letters**. The writer seems to be addressing a personal friend all the time using phrases like, 'I feel so happy to let you know...', 'Do you know what happened today..?', etc.
- You can keep a **daily record** of the people you meet, the exciting things that you do at home or at school, the memories of a holiday or commonplace, everyday events. Though some people prefer to write on special occasions on events or anything that had a deep impact on their mind.
- Regular diary is written usually at bed time. Recall what you did from the morning, organize your thoughts and **write down in a chronological order**.
- You can **use ready diary** having dates printed on all pages. You can also use a **notebook** as a diary.
- If the diary does not have a printed date, write the **dates (day/month/year)** on which you are making the entry on the top corner of a fresh page. (eg. Monday, August 15th, 2021, 9p.m.)
- A **formal heading is optional**. You may or may not give according to your choice.



- You may **address the diary as a friend** and write 'dear diary' or can give it a name as Anne did or just continue to write your diary entry.
- The **style of writing is informal** as if you are talking to your friend.
- Write the diary entry in the **first person** , since this is our personal account of the events.(for eg. 'Today I woke up very early...')
- Since the diary is a personal document the entry doesnot need any signature. **Signature is optional** too.

At end end, to start a diary all one needs is a willingness to write. Don't feel lazy and be regular- create a schedule and set a time limit. Writing can be hard and getting started is usually the hardest part. Organize your thought, decide what to write. If you are still not sure what to write, just begin your diary dscribing your everyday activities and explore where it finally leads you to. Writing in your diary should never be a burden, so try to have fun out of it as you enjoy chatting with your trusted friend. It can be a place of solacea place of creativity, a place of reflectiona place where your thoughts can roam free. As long as you enjoy , you will never miss an entry.



References : Sunbeam English Reader-III, <https://diksha.gov.in>, [Diary-Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diary), The history of Diary,the original blog <https://theoldtimey.com>

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