

# Diary Writing Literacy, Class 4

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

# Lesson Objective

Lesson Objective: To be able to write a diary extract on wild hunting from the perspective of a young, Mayan child.

Hunting and fishing allowed them to make their diet more varied.



# Starter

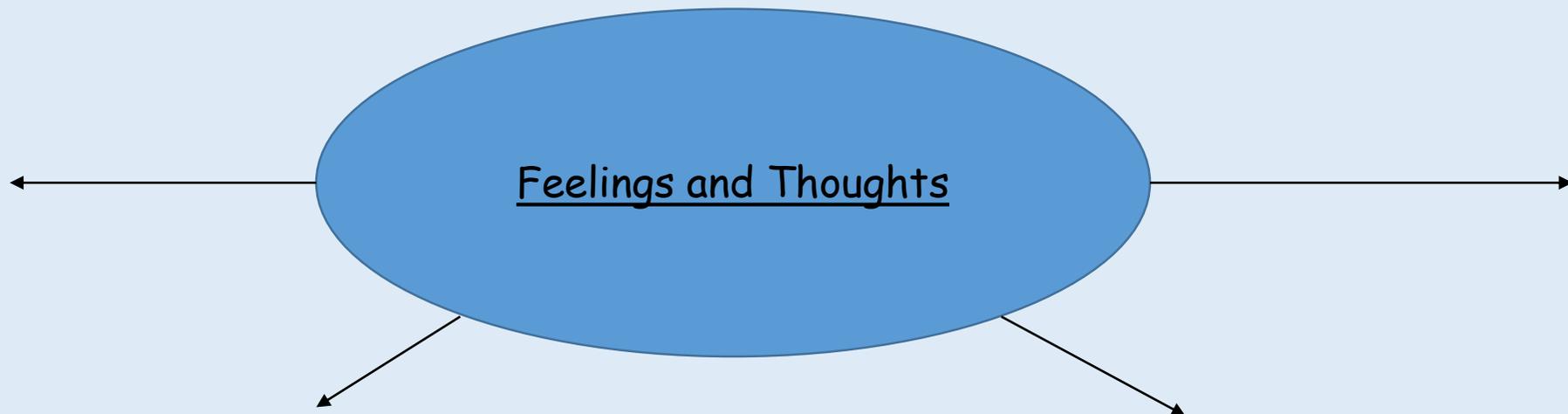
- Today in Literacy you will be writing your third extract of your Mayan diary about 'wild hunting'. As a starter, I want you to reflect on how they would source food products such as meat and fish:
  1. How do you think Mayans sourced their meat and fish?
  2. What equipment/apparatus do you think Mayans would use to hunt/find their food?

# Hunting and Fishing

- In order to get varied foods into their diets Mayans would hunt and fish for their foods.
- To survive they would need to become skilled at hunting and fishing.
- They would use spears and bow and arrows to hunt with. They would also have access to wooden boats to go out and fish.

# Diary Extract on Pitz

- In your third diary extract you are imagining that you have gone out hunting for food with your father for the first time. Underneath, see if you can create a spider diagram to explore what your feelings and thoughts were regarding the day. These should be in your diary.



# Features of Diary Writing

## Features of a Diary Entry

Uses the past tense	
Uses first person pronouns (I, we, my, etc.)	
Describes the writer's point of view, thoughts and feelings	
Includes opinions as well as facts	
Uses ambitious words to describe people and places	
Is written in an informal style, as though speaking to someone	
Uses time conjunctions to link events	
Organises events into paragraphs	
Uses inverted commas to show direct speech	

When you write your sections of your Mayan diary, don't forget to include all of the important features that we have looked. Please look at the 'Features of a Diary Entry' worksheet on the left to remind yourself what needs to be included to make it a 'Gold' diary entry.



## Examples of Diary Writing

To familiarise yourself with the style of diary writing please read the following examples. Your diary extracts are from the perspective of a Mayan child however reading the examples will remind you about what it should sound like and the things you need to include.

### Diary Sample A

Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>

We've finally got one! My mum has been trying to persuade my dad for ages to get a dog and he has always thought of a hundred reasons why we shouldn't get one. I think my mum had almost given up. Well today after we had all got home and were having a snack, there was a knock at the door. I opened it and there was a big box on the door step. I was a bit worried at first because there was no one there but mum and dad came towards the door too and dad was at the back telling me to open it. So then I opened the box and there inside, looking quite confused and shy was a gorgeous black puppy with a red bow around her neck! I picked her up and brought her into the house. Our house is quite small and not really set up for dogs! There are lots of ornaments everywhere. She scurried around our living room knocking a few things over and then we gave her some food. I felt so happy because I haven't got any brothers and sisters and I have wanted to get a dog for a long time. We decided to call her 'Surprise'.

Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup>

Well that was one of the best days ever! Today I went to an amazing waterpark on a school trip and we stayed in the swimming pools for almost the entire day! I was really excited about the trip yesterday and when we arrived I wasn't disappointed – the park was massive with slides and flumes everywhere you looked. The best bit was a kind of structure that you could climb up and walk around – there were buckets and water guns you could use to try and soak people who were underneath you.

After we had got changed and when we first got in to the pool, my friend and I headed straight for the biggest flume ride called the 'Master Blaster'. I was a little nervous about going on it because I hadn't been on anything like that before but I felt glad to be on the same rubber ring as my friend. The ride was amazingly fast and at one point, there was no light so that as you went round and round, you felt like you were travelling to the centre of the Earth. We loved it so much we kept going back the top until we had ridden on it five times in a row.

Next we wanted to try another flume ride – one that you had to ride on your own by sitting in a yellow ring. By the time we did this I was feeling confident about the flumes but as I sat at the top I didn't feel properly balanced in the ring. Before I knew it I was shooting down the slide and slipping off the ring at the same time. Then, as the slide turned a sharp corner, the ring slipped out from under me and I bashed my head on the side of the tube! I managed to grab the ring but I couldn't get on it again and after a couple of dodgy corners I was just glad to see the daylight of the plunge pool at the bottom. The lifeguard had seen the incident on his monitor so he got me some ice for my head and I sat there for a while watching the others come down. It put me off going on the flumes for a while, but after about 5 minutes I was ready to go again!

I can't wait to go back, but I must remember two key things that happen if you DO stay in a swimming pool all day – 1. Your hands will be wrinkled like a very old person's 2. You will be very tired. I am!

The day I had thought would never come had finally arrived – the new Star Wars film was being shown in the cinema for the first time and I had tickets to go and see it with my dad! Ever since my dad first showed me the Star Wars films, they have been my favourite – I have watched some of them so many times that I have memorised whole sections of the script. I love the simplicity of the good vs evil story and I think the characters are perfect. Sometimes when I have nothing else to do I practise trying to use the 'force' to make objects move. Not surprisingly, they never do!

We were booked in to an early showing because we wanted to be among this first people to see the new film – we didn't want any of the twists and turns of the plot ruined before we saw it for ourselves. So after breakfast we got in the car and drove to the cinema chatting excitedly about what we thought would happen in the film. I was wearing my Darth Vader costume and as well as feeling excited, I had a nice warm feeling that came from having my dad all to myself.

When we got the cinema there were people everywhere, many of them dressed up like me and despite the fact it was early in the day, there was a hubbub of excitement filling the huge lobby of the cinema. People were coming away from the snack counter carrying piles of popcorn and hotdogs and balancing drinks and sweets precariously. We had brought supplies from home, sneakily hidden in my dad's bag. Noticing the crush at the food counter, my dad patted the bag and gave me a wink. We waited to collect our tickets behind a Stormtrooper and a C3PO and when we had them we went directly to screen 4 to find our seats.

A lady with a torch led us down the stairs and pointed out where we needed to sit. 'If it's too dark, use the force!' she said smiling. As we relaxed into our seats, the cinema began to fill up around us and pretty soon the striking first notes of the soundtrack began to blare around us. We were straight into another galaxy. My dad and I looked at each other and smiled. Big smiles. For the next two hours we were completely bewitched by the story and I continued to stare at the screen even as the credits began to roll. When I became aware of my dad saying 'Come on son – let's go!' I looked around the cinema and was startled to see that we were the only ones left there! I better not say what happened in the film...

All the way back home my dad and I discussed what we thought of the film – it was amazing! I felt as though someone had flicked a switch in my brain – my imagination was fired by the new characters and thinking about what might come next. After we had our lunch, I was sitting on the sofa and I began to concentrate on the remote control, trying to move it closer with the power of my mind. I tried to clear my mind and imagine it edging closer, inch-by-inch. Until...it did! Just a little. I was sure it had. 'Did anyone else see that?' I shouted. The room was empty.

# Task

- Your task today is to write your third diary extract from the perspective of a Mayan child. Your diary extract should be based around you having gone hunting with your father to the nearby rainforest/rivers for the first time. In your diary extract you need to explore the following things:
- How you felt when you woke up and you were told you were going hunting for the first time with your father.
- Your experience of your Dad showing you how to hunt at the rainforest/rivers.
- How tiring it was hunting from sunrise until dark. How your body felt at the end?
- Your feelings when you arrived back home with supplies of food for the days ahead. Did you feel proud of yourself? Did you feel guilty because they were living things in the wild?
- Concluding thoughts about your day hunting - do you want to do it again or not?

# Success Criteria

Red - I can write a diary extract as a Mayan child and can include the following things:

- ✓ Include capital letters and full stops in all of my sentences.
- ✓ Include 1<sup>st</sup> person pronouns such as 'I and we'.

Yellow - I can write a diary extract as a Mayan child and can include the following things:

- ✓ Use the past tense.
- ✓ Use time conjunctions to link events.
- ✓ Explore thoughts and feelings of a Mayan child.

Green - I can write a diary extract as a Mayan child and can include the following things:

- ✓ Use inverted commas to show direct speech.
- ✓ Maintain an informal tone to meet the audience and purpose.
- ✓ Organise the events into paragraphs using chronological order.

# Final Reminders

- ✓ Include important punctuation such as capital letters, full stops and commas.
- ✓ Open and close the diary.  
Opening of your diary - "Dear diary,"  
Closing of your diary - "Write soon, Rodriguez."
- ✓ Your diary extract should be around 3 to 4 paragraphs.