

## Diary Entry

### GUIDELINES

**Objective:** Students choose three important events from their biography or memoir. For each event, students write a one-page diary entry from the point of view of the subject of the book.

Explain to students that they will write diary entries about three important events in their book. The dates students choose do not need to be consecutive. They can write about three events that took place at any point in the person's life.

Show students examples of diary entries from other books. Discuss point of view to ensure that students understand what it means to write in first person. Discuss how students might elaborate on the events they will describe. Write the following questions on the board:

- ⊗ What were the person's observations of the events?
- ⊗ How did the person feel about the events?
- ⊗ What did the person learn from the events?
- ⊗ What does the person hope the outcome of the events will be?
- ⊗ What are the person's hopes for the future?

Explain that the entries should go beyond retelling the events. They should reflect the character's personality and should sound as if the character wrote them. Encourage students to look at dialogue in the book to understand how the character communicates and the kind of language he or she might use.

Have students create a cover for their diary entries and bind them together. Encourage them to decorate their diary covers in a way that reflects the person's personality and the time period in which he or she lived.

After students have finished their entries, ask them to choose their favorite one. Photocopy these entries and bind them into a class book, or have students read aloud their entries. Use each entry as a springboard for discussion about the subjects of the biographies. Encourage students to explain why they chose to share this particular entry. What do they hope their classmates will learn from it?

# Biography/Memoir

## Diary Entry

If the subject of your biography or memoir had kept a diary, what do you think he or she would have written about? Put yourself in the person's shoes for this assignment. Choose three important events from the person's life and write a one-page diary entry about each.

DUE DATES
Book approved _____
Book finished _____
Project finished _____

### MATERIALS

lined paper, construction paper, markers or crayons

### DIRECTIONS

- 1 Find a biography or memoir that interests you and is at an appropriate reading level for you. Have your book approved by your teacher.

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Look for important events that you might write about in your diary entries. Briefly describe each event and write the page numbers below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 3 Review the list of events and circle three events you would like to write about.

**4** Imagine that you are the person in the biography or memoir and that you have just experienced the first event. Think about how to describe this event from the character's perspective.

⚙ How would the character describe what happened?

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⚙ What did the person see or hear?

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⚙ How did the person feel as the event was happening?

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⚙ How did the person feel once the event was over?

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⚙ How did other people react to the event?

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**5** Write a rough draft of the journal entry from the character's point of view. (This is called writing in first person.) Try to make the writing sound as if the character had written it. Think about the kind of language he or she would have used.

**6** Write rough drafts of your diary entries for the other two events you chose. Look over the questions in step 4 to help you decide what to include.

**7** Revise your writing and write a final draft.

**8** Make a cover for the diary. Decorate the diary in a way that reflects the character's personality and the time period in which he or she lived. Write the person's name on it and your name below it.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter: \_\_\_\_\_

## Diary Entry

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

	Student Check	Possible Points	Points Earned
Was your book approved by the due date?		5	
Did you hand in this rubric with your project?		5	
Did you hand in your project on time?		10	
Did you write three one-page diary entries?		30	
Did you write about interesting or important events?		15	
Did you write from the character's point of view?		10	
Are the entries detailed and well-written?		10	
Did you make a cover for your diary, and include the book title, author, and your name on the front cover?		5	
Are the spelling, punctuation, and grammar correct?		10	
Total Points		100	

Comments: