



## +11+ Creative Writing — Diary Entry

# Write a diary entry describing a day aboard a pirate ship.

26th November 2020

Dear diary,

SPLISH, SPLASH! SPLISH, SPLASH! SPLISH, SPLASH! The constant rowing of the oars is driving me totally insane! I, first mate Samuel, am writing in my diary! Today Cap'n Jimmy woke the crew up and had me supervise those landlubbers scrubbing the deck. There were plenty of chores for the crew! Cutlasses polished; broken sails mended; treasure counted.

### Notes for student

- Well done for opening with 'Dear diary' Chayton! You have also written the date out in full. This is the correct opening for a diary entry — great work!
- Amazing start with repetition and onomatopoeia!
- Well done for using complex punctuation here. You have used colons and an exclamation mark brilliantly. To improve, before a list which is separated by semicolons, remember to use a colon. For example "There were plenty of chores for the crew: cutlasses polished; broken sails mended; treasure counted."

The excitement filled those lazy lads when a merchant ship came sailing by. The air exploded with cheers from the crew. We captured that puny little vessel with ease as the crew had been through many battles. I contented myself by breaking into the enemy's hold and bringing barrels of beautiful biscuits up to the Cap'n. The Cap rewarded me by giving me



double shares of the diamonds. Did I mention the diamonds? Those jewels gleamed like the moon and there were thousands of them in the hold. We captured the enemy captain and made him walk the plank. What fun it was to us! The enemy begged and beseeched for mercy but we weren't lenient. I mean, who lets their enemies go?

### Notes for student

- Wow Chayton! This paragraph is packed with writer's tricks and is very well written! Well done!
- You have used lots of different alliterations and brilliant rhetorical questions.
- Your simile ("gleamed like the moon") is great. You have also used plenty of tricky vocabulary.
- This paragraph is faultless Chayton!

The fun bit came to us when a ship, armed only with a cannon came. "Ship with cannon ahoy!" The good old lookout shouted. We pursued them in circles. There was a burst of northern wind that made our ship surge forward. The enemies didn't have their sails raised, so they didn't have the sudden speed. Instantly, we pulled up alongside the enemy. Swarming the deck like ants, we massacred the opponents. Rubies, emeralds, topaz, amethyst, more diamonds and sapphire were seized. We shall be rich when we dock in our secret place (the northeast bit of Alaska). "At that port, we shall sell the jewels," the cap'n says. I am sneaking a bit of time in bed to write this. More treasure shall come to us tomorrow...

### Notes for student

- This is a brilliant diary entry Chayton! You sound like a proper pirate.
- You have used another brilliant simile here ("swarming the deck like ants") and your description of events is great.

- To improve, remember to reread your work at the end when you have finished writing as you have made a few small mistakes here:
    - Remember to put a comma between two direct adjectives — “good, old lookout”
    - “Northeast” is not a word. Next time try using “most northern” instead.
    - Remember to start a new line when a new character speaks (such as the Captain).
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### Progress Plan

- Overall, this is an excellent diary entry Chayton! You should be proud of yourself. You are a natural pirate.
  - You have structured the diary nicely and it is very well written. You have included brilliant similes, onomatopoeia and alliteration. To improve, remember to try and also include personification and a metaphor. Also remember to include the five senses: what can you see, hear, smell, taste and feel? This will help you deepen your description.
  - Finally, remember to also describe how you are feeling. You do this well but briefly. In a diary entry, an examiner will be looking for evidence of feelings and emotions.
  - Keep up the good work Chayton!
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**Your work was marked by Ellie.**

**Qualifications:** 1st class English and History degree

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**A bit about me:** I studied creative writing and children's literature while at University, as well as the Tudors and Cleopatra. In my free time I swim,



read and play Pokemon. I love to write and I hope to become a published author one day.

**This work was reviewed and approved by James Davey, The Exam Coach.**