

Diary Writing - The Wishgranter

Today, we will explore the personal genre of the diary entry. This tends to use an informal style, as it's written purely to recount an event or day in the life of someone. It therefore, as we know, uses the **first person** and generally the **past tense** (but can also use the **present tense** to explore the current feelings of the writer, and often the **future tense** to predict what might happen next).

Watch the film, the [Wishgranter](#), then work through these activities:

First, let's explore the setting – look carefully at each element of the picture below:

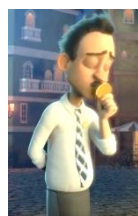


Activity 1. Show, not tell: use the grid below to use sentences/phrases to give clues about the setting above, without stating the obvious. The first has been done as an example. You could think of more than one for each.

Tell	Show
It's a deserted town marketplace	Footsteps echoed across the cobblestones and bounced off the surrounding shops and houses.
It's late evening:	
The fountain is switched off	
It's not cloudy	

Activity 2. Now choose a **character** from the video that you would like to focus on – the waiter who wishes for (and gets) money, the traveller, the flower-seller or the Wishgranter himself. Each of them experiences a series of different emotions throughout the film. Use the example below to create a ‘flowchart’ of emotions in your exercise book for your chosen character, giving the **event** and the corresponding **emotion** that he or she might feel.

You will need to start the film again, and pause it each time your character feels a different emotion – think about what happened and how it made them feel. Only do this for the **one** character – ignore the others.



Stood before the fountain and kissed my last coin – **desperate hope** that my wish for money might come true



Sudden gust of wind blew a banknote right in my face – **total astonishment**



I blew the dandelion as I was clearing dishes and then found a pile of coins on a plate – **completely overjoyed** (someone must have left a huge tip for me!)



And so on...



Activity 4. By the time you finish working through the video, you should find that your flowchart of emotions should also be a **timeline of events** for your chosen character, which will help when you write your diary entry.

Activity 5. Time to write your diary entry. The diary-writer’s toolkit is fairly straightforward:

- Written in the **first person** (I, me, my ...)
- Written mostly in the **past tense** (things that have happened), but can also use the **present tense** (what the writer is feeling/experiencing now, as a result of what happened) and the **future tense** (what might happen after the events in the diary entry, or what the writer hopes will/won’t happen)
- Generally, uses an informal style (**contractions** used, with a **question tag** or two)
- Includes **emotions** of the writer
- Detailed **description** of events – it’s a recount of what happened to the diarist.
- Brief **introduction** to summarise the overall feeling of the writer about what happened
- Brief **conclusion** to summarise what happened, including what the writer thinks/hopes might happen in the future.

Your diary entry (if you have chosen the waiter) could start something like this:

You know what it’s like – normally, I never have any luck, do I? Well, today was different. Today was incredible! When I think about what happened this evening, as I was finishing my shift at the café, I still can’t believe it. But it’s true, it really is...

Can you spot the informal techniques that have been used?

Now it’s up to you! Have fun, and don’t forget to share your writing on Seesaw.