

Diary Entry – Top Tips

1. Include the date – you can make this up, we know it is at the time of the Potato Famine.
2. Diary entries are usually written at the end of the day, looking back on what has happened, so it needs to be in the past tense and should be reflective (thoughtful).
3. You may want to start with a general statement about what the day has been like e.g. *It has been a fantastic day today as we actually had something to eat.* And then explain what has happened during the day.
4. Remember – diaries normally tell events in a chronological order and include personal emotions and feelings. Sean will feel strongly about the dragoon, especially to start with. We can imagine his attitude to the British troops, given they are occupying his country, not helping with the famine and helping to throw out families who can't afford to pay their rent.
5. You could use 'thought bubbles' (like speech bubbles) to express what Sean is feeling about different people (the dragoon, his mum, Annie, his dead siblings) and then use these to help you write what Sean might put in his diary.
6. Remember, it is Sean writing so it will be in an informal style and written completely from his point of view (perspective).
7. As a final sentence you could reflect again on the day or look forward to the next day. e.g. *So, it has been quite a remarkable day ... or I wonder what tomorrow will bring; I don't trust the British and I will watch out for a trap tomorrow.*
8. Only write about his meeting with the dragoon; don't worry about when he and Annie go back to the house and what happens with his mum etc.

LO: to write a diary entry which includes personal thoughts and emotions

12.1.21