

ENGLISH · Y3

Diary Recount — Year 3

WAGOLL: My School Trip to the Aquarium

The Model Text

Tuesday 15th November Dear Diary, Today was the BEST day of the school year so far! Our class went on a trip to the Sea Life Aquarium and I cannot wait to tell you all about it. First, we travelled there on a big yellow coach. I sat next to my best friend Maya and we played 'I Spy' for almost the whole journey. Although it took over an hour, the time flew by because I was so excited. Next, we arrived at the aquarium. As soon as we walked in, I could smell the salty sea water. Our guide, who was called Tom, took us through a long blue tunnel. There were sharks swimming RIGHT ABOVE OUR HEADS! At first I felt a bit scared, but then I realised they were just gliding past peacefully and I felt amazed instead. After that, we visited the tropical reef tank. I saw a real-life clownfish, just like Nemo, hiding inside a wobbly anemone. My favourite part was when one of the staff fed the stingrays. The stingrays glided up to the surface and ate the fish from her hand. It was incredible. Finally, before we left, we got to touch a starfish in the rock pool zone. It felt rough and bumpy, not slimy like I had expected. When we got back to school, my legs were tired but I had the biggest smile on my face. I cannot stop thinking about the sharks. I really want to go back one day, maybe with my family. Goodnight, From Sam

Notated features

What makes this a strong Y3 diary?

- DATE at the top: 'Tuesday 15th November'
- OPENING: 'Dear Diary,' — diary convention
- FIRST PERSON: 'I,' 'we,' 'my'
- PAST TENSE: 'travelled,' 'arrived,' 'saw' (because it has happened)
- TIME CONNECTIVES: 'First,' 'Next,' 'After that,' 'Finally' — organise the day



- FRONTED ADVERBIALS: 'As soon as we walked in...' 'Before we left...'
- SENSES: 'I could smell the salty sea water,' 'It felt rough and bumpy'
- EMOTIONS: 'I felt a bit scared,' 'I felt amazed instead' (a Y3 marker)
- EMPHASIS: 'RIGHT ABOVE OUR HEADS' (capitals show excitement)
- REFLECTION: 'I cannot stop thinking about...' — shows personal response
- FORMAL CLOSE: 'From Sam' or 'Goodnight'

Writing prompt

Write your own diary entry. Choose: a school trip, a holiday day, a special family meal, or a day when something unusual happened. Include: a date, 'Dear Diary,' three time connectives ('First,' 'Next,' 'Finally'), one sentence describing what something looked, smelled or felt like, and a final reflection on how the day made you feel.

