Ms. Mutama

Spoken Language 10

The Diary

Have you ever kept a diary or journal? If you have, do you still keep one and what types of things do you write in it?

If you do not, would you ever consider keeping one? Why or why not?

Most people keep diaries/journals in order to record significant events in their everyday lives. These days journals are kept to manage a record of just about anything - diet, health, physical activity, gratitude, prayer, travel, and poetry. The possibilities are endless.

Journal or diary writing has been traditionally used to record and remember significant events in one’s life. Journal writing can be very therapeutic as it allows us to order and process our innermost thoughts, frustrations, desires, and hopes for the future in open, honest, and straightforward ways that we may not be able to do in everyday life with the people around us. It can be fun and eye-opening reading old diary entries.

Today social media outlets such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, have taken the place of traditional journaling as one is able to use these platforms to record and chart important events in their lives. Nevertheless, journaling as it is traditionally understood still has its own role to fill as the public nature of these digital channels inhibits the honesty of this traditional medium.

Wait a minute - does it? Are there tweets and posts you have seen that are a little too honest and should belong in private journals instead? Do you think social media has enabled us to be more honest and forthright with our thoughts?

As understood from the title, the novel, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* by Sherman Alexie is written, in a diary format. Based on what we already know about the nature of diaries, what can we expect from this diary?

* Content - What subject matter will be explored?
* Style of writing - Informal? Colloquial everyday speech? Slang?
* Self-Reflection
* Chronological Order
* Each entry started with a date
* Past Tense
* Detailed Description
* First-Person

Diary Writing Assignment - Due Friday February 21

Using the first chapter of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*, as a reference, write your own diary entry. Your diary entry must include:

* 1-2 pages
* Discuss **two aspects** of your identity in detail - This could be a hobby/passion, physical condition, where you live, personality trait - think of your mind map
* Include **two drawings** related to the content
* Include **2 examples of figurative language** - Hyperbole, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, etc
* Make sure to **highlight an event** from your life

Rubric for Diary Entry - Out of /16

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Emerging | Developing | Proficient | Extending |
| Aspects of Identity | Aspects of identity are not listed or briefly mentioned with no exploration | Aspects of identity are mentioned but not explored in detail | Aspects of identity are explored in detail, have a clear understanding of how writer defines themself | Use of words to describe are extensive, show incredible self-reflection and depth of exploration |
| Figurative Language | Either no examples of figurative language or examples are disconnected from content | There are examples of figurative language there but cannot see how they add significant meaning to content | Figurative language is used correctly and applied to add clear meaning to composition | Figurative language is used correctly and applied in creative ways to add significant meaning to composition |
| Life event | Insufficient details | Some details to describe life event but not enough to have a full idea  | Event is explored in detail and depth | Creative detailing and exploration of life event to see how it contributes to that person’s sense of identity |
| Drawings | Lack of drawings or disconnected from content | Drawings are somewhat related to content | Drawings are directly related to content in diary entry | Drawings are related to content and significantly and creatively tie into life event or aspects of identity |