

Writing

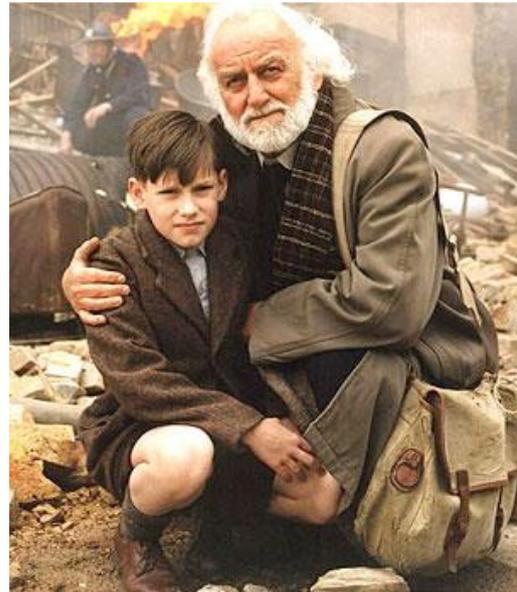
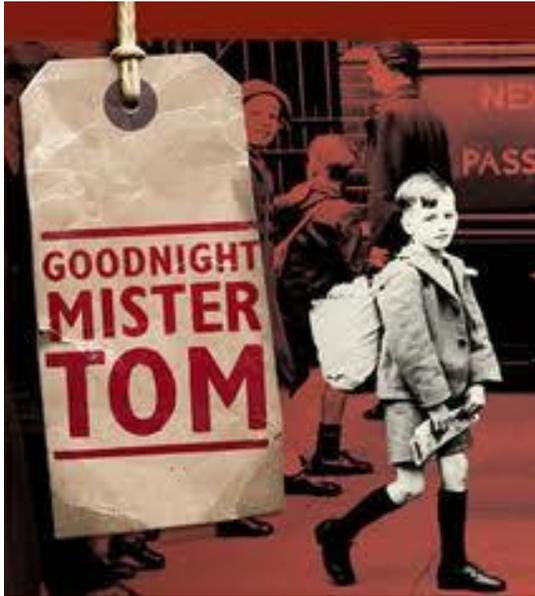
LO: To write using the features of a diary

YOUR TASK:

You are going to be writing a **diary entry** from the viewpoint of Willie.

You are Willie at the **end of Chapter Four** when he is tucked up in bed.

You are going to write from his perspective, **touching on key events** that you have experienced since living with Mister Tom.



Remember: Diary entries don't just retell the story. This piece should touch on key events and **delve into the thoughts, feelings, concerns and hopes** the character may have. You could also think about trying to imagine what Mister Tom may be thinking.

Key features of a diary entry:

DEAR DIARY...

First person



Key events

Thoughts and feelings
Personal anecdotes

Make sure that you don't start writing a story!

Selection of ideas you may include:

- Imagine you are **William** after your first day, what are your impressions of Tom and Little Weirwold.
- Imagine you are **Tom** with William to look after. What do you think of the contents of the bag?
- Imagine you are **Tom writing and asking his wife Rachel for her advice** on how to look after Tom.

Things you may want to consider:

- **A range of complex, compound and simple sentences** – this will allow you to experiment with the voice of your character, build tension, explore your character's feelings and illicit an emotional response.
- **Include rhetorical questions** as a method of engaging your reader and conveying the uncertainty Willie may be feeling.
- **A range of punctuation** – in this piece of writing you could focus on dashes, semi-colons and parenthesis (brackets). All of which are useful when explaining circumstances, emotions and the sequence of events.

Brackets

Separate additional detail or information

I spoke to Eliza (**her sister is a doctor**)
about your strange symptoms.

I gave the bear a banana (**all I had**
left).

Full stop on outside



The word or phrase inside the brackets, commas or dash is called a parenthesis.

Dash

Show a break in a sentence.
Separate two clauses.

The fire spread quickly and the trees were engulfed –
I was scared.

Remember:

- It is stronger than a comma
- It is longer than a hyphen

Semi-colon

1. Introduce list (separating longer phrases in a list).

The children need to bring with them: a hot-water bottle if the weather is cold; a cup, a plate and a bowl; a knife, a fork and a spoon.

Semi-colon

Links TWO main clauses

2. Replace a full stop.

It links two complete sentences and turns them into one sentence. The two sentences are closely linked in meaning.

It shows a **LONGER** pause than a comma

The girl has never been so terrified; she backed away, but there was nowhere to hide.

The film was brilliant; I had a great time.

- Remember as well to **experiment with a range of sentence starters**, this will develop the fluidity of your writing and they can be used effectively to aid in the description, analysis and progress of Willie's experience. To do this effectively you may consider using **adverbials** and **relative clauses**.

Adverbial

Before the sun came up...
Before we went out...
All night long...
As fast as he could...
Under the bed...
At nine o'clock...

This morning, we decided to begin to manufacture the human dummies and water rafts but what would we use?

Under the bed, we hid the prison raincoats and hair in order to avoid discovery.

Add additional information

Clauses



1. **Subordinate clause:** it does not make sense by itself.

Although I was petrified, I confidently strolled through the classroom door.

2. **Main clause:** this clause makes sense by itself.

3. **Relative clause:** have the words 'which, where, that, whose, who' to begin with.

The table **which is made of oak** is now black with age.
My brother was born in the hospital **where my father works**.
The game, **that was due to start now**, has been delayed.

- And **finally**, as with your rainforest and Alcatraz pieces of writing, please consider the **internal** (emotional/thoughts and feelings) and **external experience** (physical struggle) of Willie.

Thoughts and Feelings

- **Fear crept through my veins**, as I thought the yapping, black and white beast was going to attack me.
- **Confusion flooded my mind** as I could not believe that Mister Tom had no intention to hurt me with the red, hot poker.
- Surely children are meant to be loved and cherished? Willie's mother's treatment of her son was **baffled me**, a restful sleep was to evade me as **visions of Willie's childhood experiences** tormented my dreams.

Sentence Structure and Punctuation	Text and Organisation	Composition and effect	Spelling
Complex sentence: • Connectives - however, due to, despite, subsequently, consequently. • Subordinate clause	Link paragraphs Ordered text with introduction AND conclusion.	Address the audience Adjectives Adverbs Alliteration Similes Metaphors Rhetorical questions.	
Capital letters for names and places?			
() brackets ()			
??? Question marks ???			
!!! Exclamation marks !!!			
Colon :::: Semi colon ;;;		✓ A dash	
Hyphen ----		✓ A hyphen	
Ellipsis		✓ A sentence with an adverbial (e.g. Before dinner, I...)	
Apostrophes - can't, didn't, haven't			

Suggested Structure and Planning Sheet

This is a set of ideas to help guide you, **if you have other ideas please pursue them**, this is not a strict number of paragraphs.

Paragraph 1 – Opening, reasons for not writing sooner (link to awe of Little Weirwold and summary of what they have been up to.

What a day I have had today! I was not aware that such places like Little Weirwold actually existed in this world (apart from in my dreams). It is quite idyllic, however I feel that it could be too good to be true, luck doesn't ever cross my path. Mother says I am too full of sin to live a happy, fortunate life...

Paragraph 2 – New discoveries e.g. train journey from London, impressions of the countryside, seeing animals (dog, cow, squirrel), sleeping in a bed for the first time.

My adventure began as soon as I boarded the fascinating steam train, quickly my excitement faded as I realised that we were leaving the city, and my mother, behind. Green squares flashed past the windows, but all I could concentrate on were my shaking hands and pounding head...

Paragraph 3 – Developing his relationship with Tom (linked to an event) e.g. Willie's surprise at Tom not telling him off, Tom allowing Willie to buy a sweet, buying the clothes, Tom's reaction to the belt.

Tom, the giant of a man who is looking after me, is definitely not as intimidating as he first seemed. You would not believe what he has done for me to today! To my surprise I was able to choose my own sweet, a comic and even some new clothes! ...

Paragraph 4 – Meeting new people e.g. doctors, teacher, librarian, post office man.

So many kind people have greeted me over the last few days but the one who remains in my memory is the friendly face of the librarian. Have you ever been to a library? It is incredible...

Paragraph 5 – Excitement for the future, final thought before ending.

This is by no means a completed example, you will probably find there is so much more you will want to include, but it does give you an idea of what it should aim to be like.