

Lesson Plan – Diary writing by Nadia Moolman

Theme: Diary Entry			
Stage:	Teacher Role/Activity/Process:	Skills Focus:	Time:
Warmer	T asks SS what they think a diary is. T writes down all the ideas on the board.	Listening, speaking	5
Contextualisation	T hands out example of diary entry and SS take turns to read aloud. Discussion on diary entry. T tells SS to think about what they would like to write about if they kept a diary. SS take out class workbooks and draw a mind map with ideas of the event and the related information.	Listening, speaking, writing	15
Workbooks	T assists SS in starting their diary entry and SS have to compile a rough draft using their mind maps, referring to the instructions on page 7 of New Nation.	Reading, speaking, writing	15
Homework	SS complete their rough draft and hand in the final draft on Friday.	Reading, writing	

Diary of a Teenage Girl
Becoming Me by Caitlin O'Conner

By Melody Carlson
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Chapter One

Monday, January 1 (a rather uneventful new year, so far anyway)

I heard somewhere that when you write in a diary you should pretend that you're writing a letter to a really good friend, someone you trust completely, and you know will never laugh at you. So that's what I'm telling myself, because to tell the truth I feel kind of silly writing about my life in this dorky little book. And it's funny because I've actually had this diary for several years now, and suddenly it hits me-like hey, I'm sixteen! According to some people this should be one of the most memorable eras of my whole life. Well, I'm not too sure I even want to remember everything about being sixteen, but on the other hand, things seem to be looking up lately, and it might actually be fun to track how the rest of my junior year goes. Especially considering the first few months have been pretty dull so far. But first of all, let me say this: Being sixteen is not really that sweet. And furthermore, it's not terribly exciting either-at least not for me (although I'm certain that some kids my age are having a really great time). Take last night, for instance, I wanted to go to a New Year's Eve party with my friend, Beanie Jacobs. But do you think I got to go? Yeah, right! To protest, I stayed up in my room most of the night, until my mom literally begged me (using her famous it's-a-holiday guilt trip combined with the promise of double-dutch brownies) to "come join the family." And then we watched this really lame video about a bunch of stupid kids who got lost in the woods. And then we stayed up until midnight and watched our neighbors shooting off (what are supposed to be illegal) fireworks. Well, big whoopdee-doo!

Wednesday, January 3 (back to school)

I need to say that I read back over my first entry in this diary and had to laugh. I mean, I sound like such a blabbermouth. And in real life I'm not even like that. In fact, some people think I'm rather quiet and reserved. My grandma says that's a good thing because there's a Proverb that says something like "even a total fool can appear wise if she keeps her mouth shut." Anyway, I guess the way we express ourselves in writing isn't always the way we express ourselves in real life (and I notice I use a lot of parentheses too). But that's okay-I think writing is fun. Now back to my life ...

Okay, today I'm thinking about the pros and cons of popularity (well, mostly the pros). And believe me, I realize (as much as any sixteen-year-old possibly can) that popularity is highly overrated and it's not like it's ever been my primary goal in life. But I guess I never wanted to be a total geek either! And it's not like I am. Not really anyway. Okay, I'm not popular, but I'm not such a loser. I guess I'm just not much of anything. I mean I'm not in any particular group in school-not a geek or a freak, not exactly an academic, and certainly not a jock! Mostly I just hang with Beanie, and sometimes with some of the kids from youth group (but then they can act pretty geeky at times, and we don't always like being connected with them, not that anyone would really care since we are basically nobodies anyway).

But just because we're "nobodies" doesn't mean that kids who think they are "somebody" should put us down. Does it? I mean, I don't think I put other kids down (even if I think they're total geeks), but I suppose if I was being really honest (which was my original goal in this diary, so I better stick to it) ... well, I suppose I might act just a little superior sometimes. I mean, it's not like I really think I'm better than anyone else or anything-but I suppose I might act a little bit snooty, especially when I'm afraid that someone else is going to put me down anyway. I know that's not very nice, but it's the truth.