

Diary Entries

Short Writing Tasks
Reading Comprehension
Extended Composition

Introduction

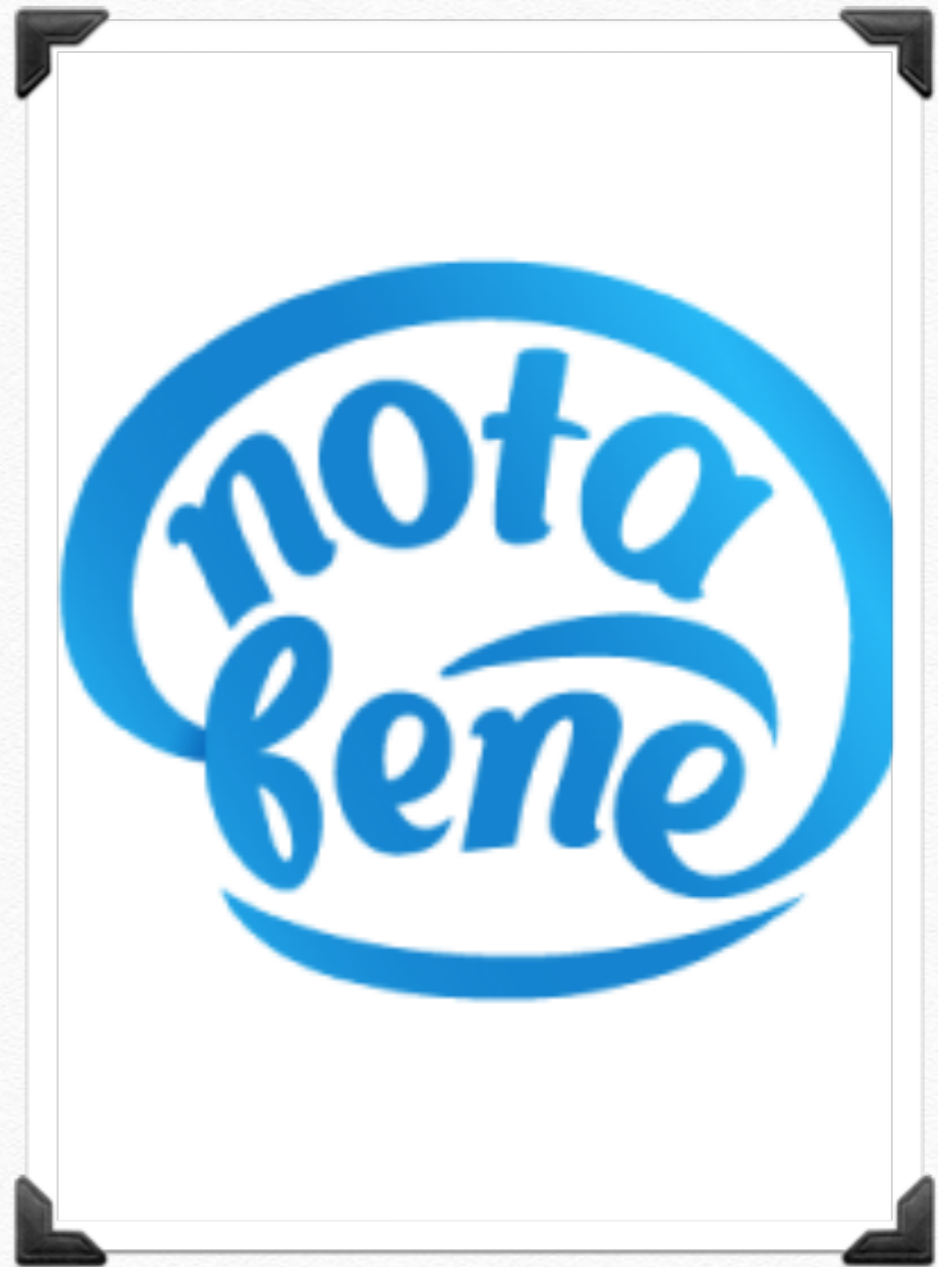
- ❖ Personal account through which we see an individual's view of the world.
- ❖ Suits students who enjoy characterisation and imaginative writing.

A diary entry can...

- ❖ Record events that have taken place
- ❖ Record travels (this is called a journal)
- ❖ Entertain readers (in newspapers)
- ❖ Give opinions
- ❖ Talk about secret thoughts, hopes, wishes

Important!

- ❖ Although the general rule is to write in chronological order, if something amazing has happened, that should come first in your diary entry.



- ❖ If you won the Lotto, the Big Match or witnessed the murder of a close friend, for example, you would not begin by saying: 'Another frosty morning. It took me ages to scrape the ice from the windscreen. I hope they grit the roads soon because the forecast is for worse weather in the coming days and I'm quite nervous driving on ice...'

Register

- ❖ Look at the date. If the diary is meant to have been written in the early 1900s, for example, the language will be formal and no modern slang will be used, nor will there be references to modern events, technology etc.

Journal

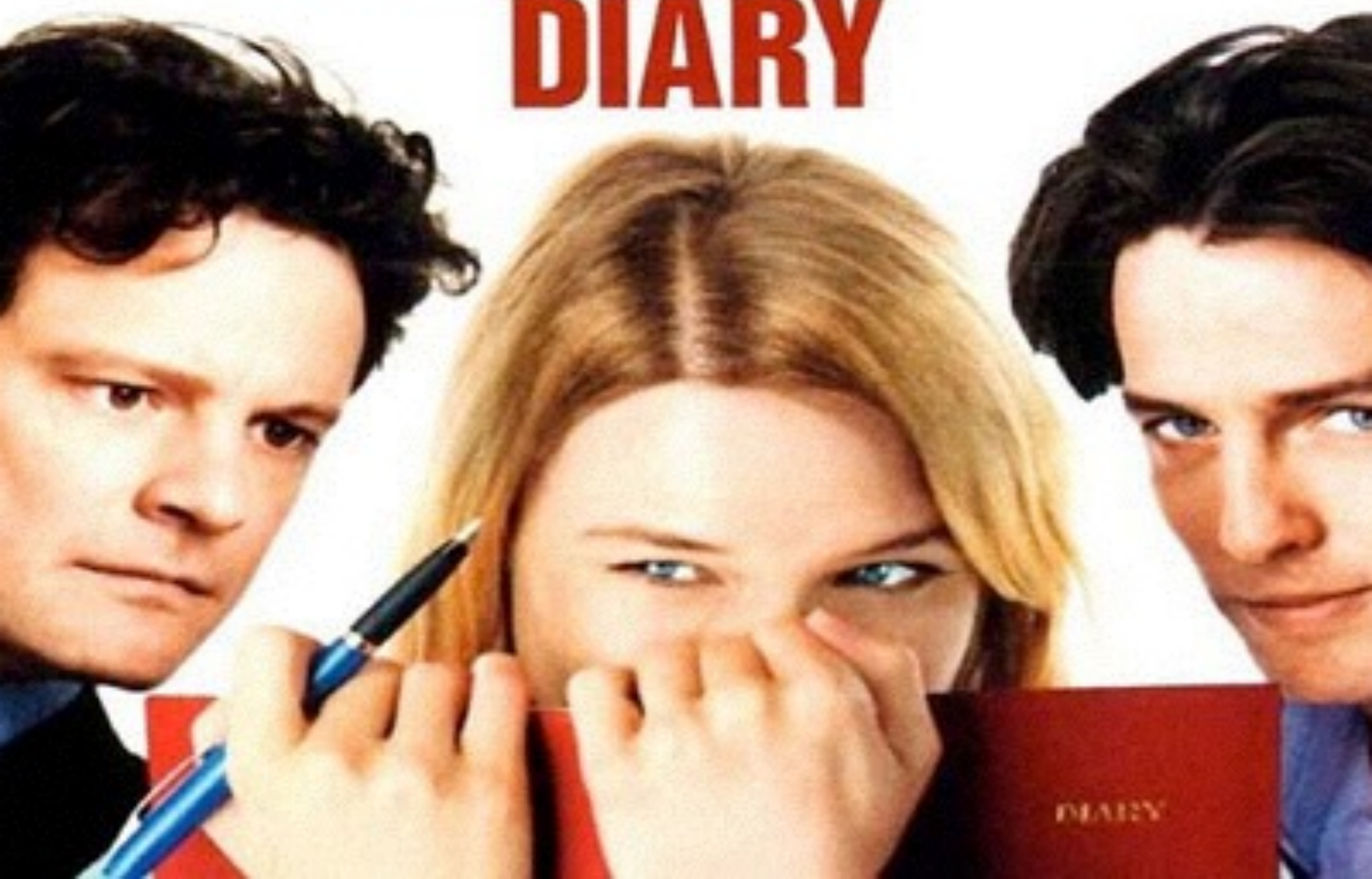
Newspapers



- ❖ Written in the first person, which makes it engaging: we relate to the writer.
- ❖ Anecdotes add human interest
- ❖ Won't be as personal as a diary intended for private use only
- ❖ Usually informative about travel, sport etc. This makes it interesting

- ❖ In a journal, the writer may address the readers from time to time, although the focus will mainly be on his or her own experiences and reflections on these experiences.
- ❖ Journals can be amusing, which engages the readers. The tone in this case can be light-hearted and chatty.

BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY



- ❖ A personal diary can be written in informal, chatty, relaxed language.
- ❖ Remember, however, to avoid text speak, bad language or any offensive references.

Tone

- ❖ Depends on the task.
- ❖ Can be humorous, nostalgic, irritated...
- ❖ Should not be a dry chronicle of events

The Secret
DIARY
of
ADRIAN MOLE
aged $13\frac{3}{4}$

SUE TOWNSEND



Structure

- ❖ Chronological order, but remember to mention most important item first!
- ❖ Reflect on each event you discuss (this is very important)
- ❖ Give the date and start by saying 'Dear Diary'.
- ❖ No need to sign off. This is not a letter.