Writing your diary entry

1. Three core things to consider:
   
   o **Features:**
     - Put the date at the top of each entry
     - ‘Dear Diary,’ (as first line)
   
   o **Tone:**
     - Informal: Use casual language.
     - Write in the first person (use I instead of he/she)
     - Use the past tense.
   
   o **Content:**
     - Significant events for the diary writer.
     - Personal response; how you are feeling.

2. Creating a viewpoint

   You must include:

   1. **Adjectives:** Words that describe how the character sees the world.
   2. **Opinions:** When the writer tells the reader what the character is thinking.
   3. **Feelings:** When the writer tells the reader what the character is feeling.
   4. **Language:** The writer chooses certain words that match the character. For example, youth slang for a young character.
### Diary Entry Scaffold

| Orientation | • At the top of your diary entry you should put the date (this acts like a headline and leads into your entry).  
|             | • You may choose to include a greeting such as Dear Diary.  
|             | • The orientation contains the main idea of the whole diary entry.  
|             | • In the orientation you should briefly outline the event, place or relationship that will be the subject of your diary entry. It should be clear in your orientation how you are feeling. **Remember...you are writing as though you were present during the gold rush from the perspective of a child or woman.** |

| Body | • The body of your diary entry should be broken up into paragraphs. This is where you expand on what you have written in your orientation.  
|      | • You will go into further detail about how you feel about the event, place or relationship that is the subject of your diary entry.  
|      | • **When writing a diary entry, the following features are common:**  
|      |   - First person narrative (‘I’ or ‘me’ rather than ‘she’ or ‘they’).  
|      |   - Many emotive words expressing the writer’s attitudes and feelings.  
|      |   - The tone is often thoughtful, as the person writing the diary entry is thinking over things that are significant to them.  
|      |   - It has a point of view/opinion about events, places and/or relationships and can include detailed descriptions.  
|      |   - The entry reveals the hopes, fears, and dreams of the person writing the entry (in this case, characters in the novel/short story you have studied).  
|      |   - Vocabulary of diary entries is mainly words that are common in everyday speaking – the words should reflect the age and background of the writer. |

| Conclusion | • Sums up what the character feels about the event, place or relationship that has been the subject of the entry. |