



# SIX ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CILIP CARNEGIE AND KATE GREENAWAY MEDALS

## Activity 2: Dear Diary

Many children's authors have written books in the form of diaries. This is a direct approach that takes you right to the heart of the action – and into the mind of the narrator.

But have you ever thought about keeping a diary to tie in with your own reading habits? Think about the advantages:

- You will remember which books you read and when you read them.
- You can look back over your response to the books, and see how your ideas and attitudes may change and develop as you get older.
- Charting your progress through a book helps you set yourself goals.
- A reading diary makes you a more attentive reader and is good for your concentration.

You'll need to find an exercise book, notebook or file to keep your diary.

Start off with the name of the book and the author. Write the date when you took the book out of the library and ask yourself the following questions:

· Why did you choose that particular book? Was it recommended by a friend, a member of your family, a librarian or a teacher?

· Did you read the blurb on the back? Were you attracted to the cover?

As you go through the book, remember to write down what you like (or don't like!) about the book.

How do you feel about the characters? Are they the type of people you know or are familiar with? If not, what's different about them?

Write about the plot and the way the action moves forward. Remember, your diary is not just about the book. It's about you and your reading too!

You can also write down about what's going on in your own life and how that affects your enjoyment of the book.

When you finish the book, write about how you would sum it up to someone who has never read it. Would you recommend it? Would you ever want to read it again?



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Remember, your reading diary is a reflection of you and your personality so you should customize it any way you like.

You could cut out pictures and book jackets downloaded from the internet, for example, and you can even doodle to decorate your diary too.

As you read about the different characters in your books, try finding images of those characters from the internet, or cut them out of newspapers and magazines.

Similarly, think about the settings for the stories, and choose some images that sum the settings up in your mind.

You can even add scraps of material, stickers, wrappers or cards to create a collage – anything that reminds you of the book and how you felt when you were reading it.

**"It all began last January, on a dark evening that was full of sleet. Funny, it's not long ago. I was just a kid then. But today is October 2nd and this is where I begin to write..."**

*Extract from Dear Nobody by Berlie Doherty, CILIP Carnegie Medal winner, 1991*



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