

Character Diary Instructions & Rubric

Write at least five substantial journal entries from the perspective of a character in your book. At the beginning of each entry, state the name of the featured character and the chapter after which the entry would be written.

Put yourself in the character's shoes, and consider the following questions to get you going:

- What are you most afraid of or worried about? What is making you anxious? Describe the person, object, or event that bothers you.
- Who has impressed, annoyed, or pleased you most so far? What other character has had the strongest effect on you? Describe the interaction you've had, and why you feel the way that you do.
- What do you want to accomplish in your life? What big goals have you set for yourself, and why? What obstacles stand in your way?
- If you could relive a moment, what moment would you like to relive, and why? What event do you think about? Why is it such a strong memory for you? Do you have any regrets about this moment?
- What lesson(s) have you learned? What have the events that you've been through taught you? How have you changed?
- Choose a value or ideal that is important to you--honesty, courage, faithfulness, and so forth. Define your value, and explore how it relates to your life. Why is this ideal important to you?

	4	3	2	1
<i>Format</i>	Each entry is titled neatly with the character's name and the relevant chapter(s)	Most entries are titled with the character's name and the relevant chapter(s)	Entries may be missing the character's name and/or the relevant chapter(s)	Character's name and relevant chapter(s) are not stated
<i>Content</i>	Entries demonstrate deep insight into characters' feelings and values along with knowledge of the plot's key events and themes	Entries demonstrate a clear understanding of characters' feelings along with knowledge of the plot's key events	Entries demonstrate a basic understanding of characters' feelings along with knowledge of plot events; entries may consist mostly of plot summary	Entries demonstrate confusion about characters' feelings and plot
<i>Length</i>	Journal includes more than five entries; entries are 20+ lines long	Journal includes five entries; entries are 15-20 lines long	Journal includes five entries that are 10-15 lines long	Fewer than five entries are fewer than 10 lines
<i>Conventions</i>	Entries are written in first person perspective and contain few errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation	Entries are written in first person perspective and contain occasional errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation	Entries are sometimes written in first person perspective and contain several errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation	Entries are not consistently written in first person perspective and/or contain several errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation that interfere with meaning

Character Diary Entry Example

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Entry #1: Prim, Chapter 3

My head is spinning. The unthinkable has happened. My stomach keeps clenching and unclenching like an angry fist. When I heard my name over the speaker, I felt a paralyzing numbness. My name, one slip of paper among hundreds, got picked? I heard a few gasps around me. People were stunned that a twelve year old had been chosen. A child forced to fight to the death for the cameras. Those cowards in the Capitol will do anything to keep their control over us.

Within seconds of the announcement, I heard my sister's voice. Katniss was pushing her way through the throng, volunteering her life to save mine. She didn't even hesitate. It was not her job to save me. It's strange that she was willing to sacrifice herself for me, yet I'm angry with her. I cannot bear to watch my sister die, but then neither could she. I know she'd do anything to protect me. I'm hoping that will get her through the Games because I still need her here in District 12.

I keep hoping I'll wake up from this nightmare, but she's really gone. They took her away so quickly. She's on her way to the Capitol now, and within days, she'll be in the arena fighting for her life.

Katniss must win. Deep down, I feel that she really will. I don't know anybody as strong and brave as my sister. I don't care if the District 1 & 2 Tributes have been training their whole lives for this. Katniss will beat them. She has to. I don't know what I would do without her.