

Teachers/Adults Side (1)

Liverpool Biennial

Kayak Diary, KS3 English

The learner will write a diary entry based on the experience of coming to Liverpool for the first time by water, using the themes of Teresa Solar's work to inspire their imagined thoughts and emotions.

Estimated time = 1 hour

Curriculum Extract:

Write accurately, fluently, effectively and at length for pleasure and information through:

- Writing for a wide range of purposes and audiences
- Summarising and organising material,
- Applying growing knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and text structure to writing and selecting the appropriate form

Plan, draft, edit and proof-read through:

- Considering how their writing reflects the audiences and purposes for which it was intended
- Amending the vocabulary, grammar and structure of their writing to improve its coherence and overall effectiveness

Key Terms:

- **Commission** - To formally choose someone to do a special piece of work, or to formally ask for a special piece of work from some.
- **Installation** - The term installation art is used to describe large-scale, mixed-media constructions, often designed for a specific place or for a temporary period of time.
- **Kayak** - A kayak is a small, narrow boat which is typically propelled by a double-bladed paddle.
- **Maritime** - Connected with the sea, especially in relation to seaborne trade or naval matters.
- **Migration** - Human migration involves the movement of people from one place to another with intentions of settling (permanently or temporarily) at a new location
- **Evoke** - To bring or recall (a feeling, memory, or image) to the mind.
- **Fragility** - The quality of being delicate, vulnerable or easily broken.
- **Informal language** - Writing is informal when it has features similar to a conversation with a friend. Used in an appropriate context, an informal tone can help make your writing seem more friendly and natural.

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Artist:

Teresa Solar

LB2021 Project:

Teresa Solar presents a newly commissioned outdoor installation, titled *Osteoclast (I do not know how I came to be on board this ship, this navel of my ark)* (2021). Composed of five kayaks, each sculptural piece reflects on the shape of a human bone. The sculptures are anchored on the maritime history of Liverpool, drawing parallels between bones – which allow us to move, are carriers of tissues, veins and cell communities, pathways for messages between brain and the body, shelter for our organs – and vessels, vehicles of migration, transmitters and connectors of bodies and knowledge.

In contrast to the enormous ships that were, and still are, built and docked in Merseyside, Solar's kayaks set the human body at sea level and evoke the fragility of the human body over the sea.



Osteoclast (I do not know how I came to be on board this ship, this navel of my ark), Teresa Solar (2021)

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Material List:

- Pen
- Paper

Activity Instructions:

Imagine that you have never been to Liverpool before. You have arrived at the mouth of the River Mersey in a kayak, just like one of Teresa Solar's sculptures. You are close to the water, connected with the waves. Your task is to write a diary extract of this experience.

Use your senses to make your writing emotive:

- What can you **see** on your arrival?
 - Glistening silver skyscrapers? Muddy brown waves? Other huge boats?
- What can you **smell**?
 - The smell of the sea? The smell of boat diesel?
- What can you **feel**?
 - The waves lapping at your kayak? The cold breeze swaying your boat? A layer of salt encrusting your skin?
 - What emotions do you feel? Excited? Nervous? Scared? Melancholic? How do you feel about the large boats sailing close to you on the river?
- What can you **taste**?
 - The salt? The fumes?
- What can you **hear**?
 - The gentle lapping of waves? Seagulls calling? Whistling wind? Distant horns of boats? The clanking of metal from a ferry loading its cargo?

You can then use this to think about what you cannot see/smell/feel/taste/hear. Where have you come from? How does it compare to Liverpool? What is missing here? What is here that you cannot find anywhere else? What year is it when you are writing this diary extract?

Have you ever been on a boat before? Whether it was a small boat (such as a kayak, rowing boat, canoe) or a big boat (like a ferry, cruise ship, sail ship), how did it feel to be on the water? Use your own experiences to help you.

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What are the features of a diary extract?

A diary is a personal record of events, thoughts, and feelings. It is usually arranged in chronological order – the order in which things happen in. A diary can be many things – a place to keep private thoughts, a record of events, or simply an entertaining story. Read through the following bullet points to help you structure your diary extract.

Structuring a diary

As diaries are personal, they can have a variety of different structures:

- They could start with 'Dear Diary' or with the date of that day's entry.
- Each day's entry might end with a closing line such as: 'Got to go now' or 'time for me to go'.

Tone and tense

- Diaries are usually quite personal – written in the first person from the writer's point of view.
- Many sound quite conversational and may contain informal words or phrases.
- Tenses can vary – diaries tend to be past tense but can use present tense to bring an event to life for the reader.
- The tone can be formal or informal depending on the intended purpose and audience, e.g. a travel diary might be chatty to encourage the reader to share fun experiences. However, it could also be serious, for example, if the writer describes places where there is extreme poverty.



Use the page below to plan/draft your diary extract.

A large, lined writing area with a thick black border, intended for drafting a diary extract. The lines are horizontal and spaced evenly down the page.

Want to showcase your brilliant work? Email your creations to learning@biennial.com for the chance for your writing to be displayed on our website. We can't wait to read your submissions!

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Use the page below to plan/draft your diary extract.

A large, hand-drawn rectangular frame containing horizontal lines for writing. The frame is slightly irregular and has a thick black border. It is set against a background of other notebook pages with spiral binding.