Diary Sample A

Friday May 5th

We've finally got one! My mum has been trying to persuade my dad for ages to get a dog and he has always thought of a hundred reasons why we shouldn't get one. I think my mum had almost given up. Well today after we had all got home and were having a snack, there was a knock at the door. I opened it and there was a big box on the door step. I was a bit worried at first because there was no one there but mum and dad came towards the door too and dad was at the back telling me to open it. So then I opened the box and there inside, looking quite confused and shy was a gorgeous black puppy with a red bow around her neck! I picked her up and brought her into the house. Our house is quite small and not really set up for dogs! There are lots of ornaments everywhere. She scurried around our living room knocking a few things over and then we gave her some food. I felt so happy because I haven't got any brothers and sisters and I have wanted to get a dog for a long time. We decided to call her 'Surprise'.

Diary Sample B

Tuesday October 1st

Well that was one of the best days ever! Today I went to an amazing waterpark on a school trip and we stayed in the swimming pools for almost the entire day! I was really excited about the trip yesterday and when we arrived I wasn't disappointed – the park was massive with slides and flumes everywhere you looked. The best bit was a kind of structure that you could climb up and walk around – there were buckets and water guns you could use to try and soak people who were underneath you.

After we had got changed and when we first got in to the pool, my friend and I headed straight for the biggest flume ride called the 'Master Blaster'. I was a little nervous about going on it because I hadn't been on anything like that before but I felt glad to be on the same rubber ring as my friend. The ride was amazingly fast and at one point, there was no light so that as you went round and round, you felt like you were travelling to the centre of the Earth. We loved it so much we kept going back the top until we had ridden on it five times in a row.

Next we wanted to try another flume ride – one that you had to ride on your own by sitting in a yellow ring. By the time we did this I was feeling confident about the flumes but as I sat at the top I didn't feel properly balanced in the ring. Before I knew it I was shooting down the slide and slipping off the ring at the same time. Then, as the slide turned a sharp corner, the ring slipped out from under me and I bashed my head on the side of the tube! I managed to grab the ring but I couldn't get on it again and after a couple of dodgy corners I was just glad to see the daylight of the plunge pool at the bottom. The lifeguard had seen the incident on his monitor so he got me some ice for my head and I sat there for a while watching the others come down. It put me off going on the flumes for a while, but after about 5 minutes I was ready to go again!

I can't wait to go back, but I must remember two key things that happen if you DO stay in a swimming pool all day – 1. Your hands will be wrinkled like a very old person's 2. You will be very tired. I am!

Diary Sample C

The day I had thought would never come had finally arrived – the new Star Wars film was being shown in the cinema for the first time and I had tickets to go and see it with my dad! Ever since my dad first showed me the Star Wars films, they have been my favourite – I have watched some of them so many times that I have memorised whole sections of the script. I love the simplicity of the good vs evil story and I think the characters are perfect. Sometimes when I have nothing else to do I practice trying to use the 'force' to make objects move. Not surprisingly, they never do!

We were booked in to an early showing because we wanted to be among this first people to see the new film – we didn't want any of the twists and turns of the plot ruined before we saw it for ourselves. So after breakfast we got in the car and drove to the cinema chatting excitedly about what we thought would happen in the film. I was wearing my Darth Vader costume and as well as feeling excited, I had a nice warm feeling that came from having my dad all to myself.

When we got the cinema there were people everywhere, many of them dressed up like me and despite the fact it was early in the day, there was a hubbub of excitement filling the huge lobby of the cinema. People were coming away from the snack counter carrying piles of popcorn and hotdogs and balancing drinks and sweets precariously. We had brought supplies from home, sneakily hidden in my dad's bag. Noticing the crush at the food counter, my dad patted the bag and gave me a wink. We waited to collect our tickets behind a Stormtrooper and a C3PO and when we had them we went directly to screen 4 to find our seats.

A lady with a torch led us down the stairs and pointed out where we needed to sit, 'If it's too dark, use the force!' she said smiling. As we relaxed into our seats, the cinema began to fill up around us and pretty soon the striking first notes of the soundtrack began to blare around us. We were straight into another galaxy. My dad and I looked at each other and smiled. Big smiles. For the next two hours we were completely bewitched by the story and I continued to stare at the screen even as the credits began to roll. When I became aware of my dad saying 'Come on son – let's go!' I looked around the cinema and was startled to see that we were the only ones left there! I better not say what happened in the film…

All the way back home my dad and I discussed what we thought of the film – it was amazing! I felt as though someone had flicked a switch in my brain – my imagination was fired by the new characters and thinking about what might come next. After we had our lunch, I was sitting on the sofa and I began to concentrate on the remote control, trying to move it closer with the power of my mind. I tried to clear my mind and imagine it edging closer, inch-by-inch. Until…it did! Just a little. I was sure it had. 'Did anyone else see that?' I shouted. The room was empty.