

DIARIES FROM THE FRONT

Activity title:	Writing diary extracts from life in the trenches
Curriculum subject or area:	Literacy, History
NC objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To write in a specific style for different audiences • To present work for different audiences • To write for purpose in a specific style
Main learning objective:	To write a diary extract about life in the trenches

Timing	Lesson plan ideas, activities and resource sheets needed
INTRODUCTION	<p>There are many fabulous diary extracts from WW1 to read to the children - small chunks can be taken from a variety of sources - see Harry Patch and Harry Drinkwater's recounts online or in resources:</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/last_tommy_gallery_03.shtml</p> <p>http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2491760/Harry-Drinkwaters-lost-diary-Great-War.html</p> <p>Get children to imagine that they have spent time on the frontline and must now keep a diary of their everyday life in the trenches. By reading some of the extracts above, children will be able to get a good image in their head of the conditions in the trenches as well as possibly using some of the emotive words and phrases to help them develop their own writing.</p>

	Model on board a diary extract and take good ideas from children as you go - see resources.
MAIN ACTIVITY	<p>Children have a go at writing their diary extracts.</p> <p>You may need to give children some starter sentences to get them going (see examples).</p> <p>Stop throughout to allow children to share their work and give others ideas.</p>
PLENARY	<p>Children should be encouraged to read out their work and share with other children.</p> <p>Make time for peer and self-assessment where possible.</p> <p>Children should be encouraged to write their diary extract or extracts up in best to make them look authentic for display purposes.</p>