

Reading an old diary

Non-fiction | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

A diary can give a close view of someone's experience, but it does not show everything that happened around them. Imagine a diary entry written after a school sports day. The writer describes waiting for a race, dropping a baton and hearing a friend cheer. Those details help a reader understand that writer's day.

The entry may say very little about the other races, the organisers or people at the far side of the field. Silence about an event is not proof that it did not happen. The writer may not have seen it, may have forgotten it or may simply have chosen not to record it.

Dates and surrounding entries can help establish context. A sentence such as "It was worse than last time" is difficult to interpret without knowing what "last time" means. Reading the previous entry may supply that detail. However, a missing page may leave the comparison unresolved.

Other records can provide another view. A programme might list the planned races; a photograph might show part of the crowd. Each source has its own limits. A programme records a plan, which may differ from what actually took place, and a photograph captures only one moment and angle.

Using several sources does not mean forcing them to agree. Differences can help a reader ask better questions. A careful account separates what a source states, what it suggests and what remains unknown.

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. Which three details are included in the imagined entry?

- A. Waiting, dropping a baton and hearing a friend cheer
- B. Organising races, taking photographs and printing a programme
- C. Winning a race, receiving a medal and leaving early
- D. Measuring the field, counting spectators and collecting tickets

2. What might a previous diary entry explain?

- A. What the writer means by “last time”
- B. The exact angle of a later photograph
- C. Every race that actually took place
- D. The names of all the organisers

3. What does “unresolved” mean here?

- A. Proved to be false
- B. No longer worth reading
- C. Arranged into a final order
- D. Still lacking a clear answer

4. Why does an unmentioned event not prove that it never happened?

- A. A diary can never contain accurate details
- B. The writer records a limited view rather than every event
- C. The programme always lists events that did not happen
- D. The writer must have attended every race

5. Why should a programme not be treated as a complete record of what happened?

- A. It records planned events that may have changed
- B. It shows only one camera angle
- C. It contains only the writer’s emotions
- D. It must be written after all races finish

6. What approach does the passage recommend?

- A. Choose whichever source includes the most names
- B. Discard every source that disagrees with another
- C. Compare sources while keeping their different limits clear
- D. Treat one diary as an account of everyone’s experience

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. A. Waiting, dropping a baton and hearing a friend cheer

The opening paragraph names waiting for a race, dropping a baton and hearing a friend cheer.

2. A. What the writer means by “last time”

The passage gives a previous entry as a possible source for the earlier event being compared.

3. D. Still lacking a clear answer

A missing page may leave the meaning of the comparison uncertain.

4. B. The writer records a limited view rather than every event

The writer may not have seen, remembered or chosen to record the event.

5. A. It records planned events that may have changed

The passage distinguishes a programme's plan from what actually took place.

6. C. Compare sources while keeping their different limits clear

The ending recommends separating statements, suggestions and unknowns rather than making sources agree.

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