

Dear Diary,

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1806

Today was the start of something special. Father and I, along with my brother Joseph, went down to the beach, below Blue Lias Cliffs, on the hunt for treasure. Father had told me about these treasures called **Curiosities**, and he said that he would help me learn to locate them. I love dearly spending time with Father and Joseph, especially on the coast. And now that I have been introduced to these wonders, I want nothing more than to spend every spare moment searching for them, no matter what the weather. Father says I have 'a keen eye' for hunting them out!

Dear Diary,

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1807

As you know, I have been **refining** my skills in Father's workshop. Being able to **prize** these Curiosities from their rocky shells is a delicate task, one which requires great patience. Using small, sharp tools I gently hammer and scrape around the **protruding** features, and then with brushes I dust away the fine **particles** until the Curiosity, in all its **wondrous** glory, is revealed. Joseph and I have decided that we could sell these treasures on a stall outside our home. Even though Father works hard in his trade as a carpenter, his business is not enough to see us comfortably so the extra money would be helpful. We are certain that they will catch the eyes of many. How can anyone not be **intrigued** by their fine shapes?

Dear Diary,

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1807

As predicted, many of the people living in Lyme Regis have passed our stall and been **enticed** by our Curiosities. Some say they look like the Devil's claws! I can see why they might think this, but I'm more **inclined** to see them as beautiful treasures that the Earth has offered up to us. But there was this lady who paid them particular attention. She **caressed** them gently and admired them with a higher degree of interest. Her name is Elizabeth Philpot and I am sure that we will become firm friends.

You see, she asked my father if she could take me back to her home as she wanted to show me her collection. I was so eager that Father would have had a hard time refusing. When she **unveiled** them I was absolutely stunned. She had an **abundance** of them! Yet she did not call them Curiosities; she called them **fossils**. Fossils. I like the word. Although not as magical as Curiosities, 'fossils' is certainly more scientific. She explained that fossils are ancient sea creatures, and then she **mused**: 'who knows what beautiful monsters might still be out there to discover.'

She talked at great lengths about them and, like a sponge, my mind soaked up every word. Before leaving, she passed me a tower of books and told me to work my way through them. I plan on **devouring** those books in rapid succession. I cannot detail how excited I am. What an incredible day!

Dear Diary,

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1810

Father had been unwell for quite some time. Seeing his body and spirit **decline** was terrible. But he is at peace now. We must be strong and find a way forward before poverty **ravages** us.

Dear Diary,

Sunday 15th November, 1811

Although I should now be completely drained of energy, having spent the last few days and nights chipping and dusting away, I am filled with **immense** excitement. A few days ago, after many hours scanning the rocks and **crevices**, my clever brother discovered the most incredible find. It was too large for us to carry, so we employed the services of the **quarrymen** to dig up and transport this **colossal** find back to our home. Elizabeth told me that there were monsters out there to be found, and found it we have. The eye of this creature is the size of my face; I can only imagine what the rest of its body is like.

Dear Diary,

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1811

After searching between the cliffs of Lyme Regis and Charmouth I made the next greatest discovery. I found the body belonging to the creature's head that we found a number of weeks back. Once I had fully rescued the fossils from the clay claws of the Earth, I invited Elizabeth over to see it. She brought with her a gentleman from London, who **scrutinised** the fossils for some time. I am not one to boast but I could see that from the look upon his face, he was overcome with **astonishment**; in that moment I knew that I had brought into our world something of great scientific discovery. An ichthyosaurus he called it. The word translates as 'fish-lizard', which I think is incredibly **apt** for this 11ft mystery that now lies, holding on to its secrets, in my attic. However, the best is yet to be mentioned. This gentleman wants to deliver the fossil to the museum in London and as a reward for my findings he gave me the princely sum of 25 pounds! Father would have been so proud.

Dear Diary,

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1833

Perhaps you will laugh when I say that the death of my old faithful dog quite upset me; the cliff fell upon him and killed him in a moment before my eyes, and close to my feet. It was but a moment between me and the same fate. I have always been aware that fossil hunting under the cliffs, especially after the storms have battered them, is incredibly dangerous. Yet in spite of this danger, Tray and I have always **ventured** to find new fossils because it is after these storms that the hunt is more fruitful. He was such a wonderful **companion** and I know that I will miss him dearly. Poor, poor Tray.

Dear Diary,

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1838

There was a time when I felt that the world had used me so unkindly, I feared that I would become suspicious of everyone. After discovering the ichthyosaurus, a plesiosaurus, the pterodactylus macronyx and the squaloraja, I began to wonder when my name would be recognised as the one who unearthed them. I know that I am a woman and from a lower social class, but it angers my every **fibre** that credit should not be given to me due to these circumstances.

However, today I received a letter that has changed my thinking and enabled me to hope that a better path will be **forged** by women of science in the future. I have been awarded an **annuity** from the British Association for the Advancement of Science. This now means I can comfortably continue to study in this field.

Knowing that we are embarking on a great scientific journey fills me with immense pride and excitement. We are slowly waking ourselves up to the **notion** that the creatures we see today have evolved from ancestors before them. We are becoming inclined to believe that the world is far older than we had imagined and that sadly for us a great number of incredible beasts are now extinct. But with the determination to devour all knowledge available to us, we can slowly put together the jigsaw pieces of our incredible world.

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The Diaries of Mary Anning – Y5m/Y6s (Black) – Text

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What is meant by the phrase ‘the princely sum’?

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Find and copy the simile that is used in the diary entry dated ‘Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1807’

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How did Mary know that she had ‘brought into our world something of great scientific discovery’?

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Mary Anning wrote, ‘*I have always been aware that fossil hunting under the cliffs, especially after the storms have battered them, is incredibly dangerous*’. Explain why you think the cliffs are more dangerous at this time.

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Read the following line from the third diary entry: ‘*Some say they look like the Devil’s claws! I can see why they might think this, but I’m more inclined to see them as beautiful treasures that the Earth has offered up to us.*’ What does this tell you about how Mary feels about the ‘Curiosities’? Explain your answer using the text as reference.

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Look at the diary entry dated ‘Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1810’. Describe the difference this entry has compared to all of the others and explain why you think it has been written like this.

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Summarise the last diary entry dated 'Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1838' explaining how Mary is feeling at this point in her life.

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Why did the author chose to repeat the word 'poor' in the phrase 'Poor, poor Tray.'?

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Identify three key features that these diary entries have that make them differ to any information text you have read about Mary Anning.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Identify which diary entry captures your interest and explain why. What has the author done to create the impact you have felt?

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## The Diaries of Mary Anning – Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of these words.

curiosities \_\_\_\_\_

refining \_\_\_\_\_

prise \_\_\_\_\_

protruding \_\_\_\_\_

particles \_\_\_\_\_

wondrous \_\_\_\_\_

intrigued \_\_\_\_\_

enticed \_\_\_\_\_

inclined \_\_\_\_\_

caressed \_\_\_\_\_

unveiled \_\_\_\_\_

abundance \_\_\_\_\_

fossils \_\_\_\_\_

mused \_\_\_\_\_

devouring \_\_\_\_\_

decline \_\_\_\_\_

ravages \_\_\_\_\_

immense \_\_\_\_\_

crevices \_\_\_\_\_

quarrymen \_\_\_\_\_

colossal \_\_\_\_\_

scrutinised \_\_\_\_\_

astonishment \_\_\_\_\_

apt \_\_\_\_\_

ventured \_\_\_\_\_

companion \_\_\_\_\_

fibre \_\_\_\_\_

forged \_\_\_\_\_

annuity \_\_\_\_\_

notion \_\_\_\_\_

Synonyms are words that have similar meanings, for instance: 'large' and 'big' are synonyms of each other. Write another two synonyms for the following words.

refining: \_\_\_\_\_

intrigued: \_\_\_\_\_

caressed: \_\_\_\_\_

unveiled: \_\_\_\_\_

mused: \_\_\_\_\_

Antonyms are words that are opposite in meaning, for instance: 'large' and 'small' are antonyms of each other. Write another two antonyms for the following words.

abundance: \_\_\_\_\_

immense: \_\_\_\_\_

astonishment: \_\_\_\_\_

companion: \_\_\_\_\_

inclined: \_\_\_\_\_

Find the following words in the word search:

- ichthyosaurus
- devour
- annuity
- plesiosaurus
- ancestors
- extinct
- paleontologist
- science

e	n	c	y	t	y	s	r	o	t	s	e	c	n	a	e
x	i	c	h	t	h	y	o	s	a	u	r	u	s	n	x
t	s	t	p	h	y	o	r	c	c	s	i	e	n	n	t
i	o	n	r	p	l	e	s	i	o	s	a	u	r	u	s
n	l	p	u	t	h	y	i	e	n	m	e	n	e	i	t
c	s	c	o	t	h	e	c	n	e	i	c	s	s	t	y
t	e	a	v	e	x	t	i	m	c	t	u	y	i	y	l
p	a	l	e	a	n	t	o	l	o	g	i	s	t	e	a
r	d	e	d	x	c	e	t	r	y	i	o	u	l	o	n

## The Diaries of Mary Anning – SPAG

A semi-colon is used to join two closely related sentences together without the use of a comma or conjunction. For example: 'The eye of this creature is the size of my face; I can only imagine what the rest of its body is like.'

Re-write the following sentences replacing the comma and conjunction with a semi-colon:

1) I was completely astonished, because the gentleman gave me 25 pounds.

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2) My father was a carpenter by trade, but his avocation was fossil hunting.

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3) The cliffs had been battered by the storms, so fossil hunting was now dangerous.

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Commas are used for clarity, breaking up sentences so that they make sense. Rewrite the following sentences inserting the commas correctly:

1) Father and I along with my brother Joseph went down to the beach below Blue Lias Cliffs on the hunt for treasure.

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2) I have always been aware that fossil hunting under the cliffs especially after the storms have battered them is incredibly dangerous.

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Prefixes are added to the fronts of words to change their meaning. 7 new words can be made using the prefixes and words below. Match the correct prefix to the correct word and then re-write the whole word out:

re

un

dis

veil

approve

do

place

visit

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## The Diaries of Mary Anning– Oral Teacher Questions

What is meant by the phrase ‘the princely sum’? **‘The princely sum’ means a very good amount of money.**

Find and copy the simile that is used in the diary entry dated ‘Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1807’ **‘like a sponge, my mind soaked up every word’**

How did Mary know that she had ‘brought into our world something of great scientific discovery’? **The answer should reference the point made about the gentleman ‘scrutinising’ the fossils intently and having a look of ‘astonishment’ on his face.**

Mary Anning wrote, *‘I have always been aware that fossil hunting under the cliffs, especially after the storms have battered them, is incredibly dangerous’*. Explain why you think the cliffs are more dangerous at this time. **Storm-battered cliffs are weaker and so rock falls are more likely to occur.**

Read the following line from the third diary entry: *‘Some say they look like the Devil’s claws! I can see why they might think this, but I’m more inclined to see them as beautiful treasures that the Earth has offered up to us.’* What does this tell you about how Mary feels about the ‘Curiosities’? Explain your answer using the text as reference. **The people see the Curiosities as being similar to Devil’s claws, they see them as something dark and sinister, whereas Mary sees them as ‘beautiful treasures’ and she likens them to pleasant things.**

Look at the diary entry dated ‘Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1810’. Describe the difference this entry has compared to all of the others and explain why you think it has been written like this.

**Answer must identify that this entry is much shorter and to the point compared to all the others. It is about her father’s death and so perhaps she kept it short because she was too upset to write any more.**

Summarise the last diary entry dated ‘Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1838’ explaining how Mary is feeling at this point in her life. **Personal response but the content of the answer should focus around how she was upset that her findings were never credited to her and how she had almost lost faith in people because of this. She is clearly angry as she says ‘it angers my every fibre’ and this anger is aimed at the inequality woman and lower social classes suffer. They must however also note that she ends her entry on a positive note. She now has hope that women in the field of science will be equally recognised.**

Why did the author chose to repeat the word ‘poor’ in the phrase ‘Poor, poor Tray.’? **The repetition of the word ‘poor’ emphasises how upset Mary is and how sorry she feels for the loss of her dog.**

Identify three key features that these diary entries have that make them differ to any information text you have read about Mary Anning.

- 1) **diary entries written in the 1<sup>st</sup> person, information text in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person**
- 2) **personal views in the diary, facts in the information**
- 3) **descriptive language and structure in the diaries but more factual writing in the information texts**

Identify which diary entry captures your interest and explain why. What has the author done to create the impact you have felt? **Personal response. Children should talk about the use of language and sentence structure and the effect these have on the reader.**

Write the meaning of each of these words.

curiosities – unusual or interesting object

refining – make minor changes so as to improve a method

prise – use force in order to move apart or open

protruding – sticking out; projecting

particles – a minute portion of matter

wondrous – inspiring a feeling of wonder or delight

intrigued – arouse the curiosity or interest of; fascinate

enticed – attract or tempt

inclined – be more favourably disposed towards

caressed – touch or stroke gently

unveiled – revealed

abundance – a very large quantity of something

fossils – the remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock

mused – be absorbed in thought; to consider thoughtfully

devouring – read quickly and eagerly

**decline** – become smaller or less; decrease

**ravages** – cause severe and extensive damage to

**immense** – extremely large or great

**crevices** – a narrow opening in a rock or wall

**quarrymen** – a worker in a quarry

**colossal** – extremely large or great

**scrutinised** – examined or inspected closely, thoroughly

**astonishment** – great surprise

**apt** – appropriate or suitable

**ventured** – undertake a risky or daring journey or course of action

**companion** – a person or animal with whom one spends a lot of time

**fibre** – thread-like structure forming part of the nervous tissue in the body

**forged** – create something successful

**annuity** – a fixed sum of money paid to someone each year, typically for the rest of their life

**notion** – an idea or a belief about something

Synonyms are words that have similar meanings, for instance: 'large' and 'big' are synonyms of each other. Write another two synonyms for the following words. **These are possible examples:**

refining: **perfecting, improving, honing, polishing, focusing, sharpening**

intrigued: **interested, captivated, attracted, fascinated**

caressed: **stroked, touched, handled, felt**

unveiled: **exposed, revealed, uncovered, discovered**

mused: **considered, pondered, thought, reflected, speculated**

Antonyms are words that are opposite in meaning, for instance: 'large' and 'small' are antonyms of each other. Write another two antonyms for the following words. **These are possible examples:**

abundance: **scarcity, few, little, lack of, deficiency**

immense: **tiny, small, insignificant, limited, miniature**

astonishment: **calm, composure, expectation, unexcitement**

companion: **antagonist, enemy, foe, opponent, stranger**

inclined: **averse, unwilling**

Find the following words in the word search:

ichthyosaurus	e	n	c	y	t	y	s	r	o	t	s	e	c	n	a	e
devour	x	i	c	h	t	h	y	o	s	a	u	r	u	s	n	x
annuity	t	s	t	p	h	y	o	r	c	c	s	i	e	n	n	t
plesiosaurus	i	o	n	r	p	l	e	s	i	o	s	a	u	r	u	s
ancestors	n	l	p	u	t	h	y	i	e	n	m	e	n	e	i	t
extinct	c	s	c	o	t	h	e	c	n	e	i	c	s	s	t	y
paleontologist	t	e	a	v	e	x	t	i	m	c	t	u	y	i	y	l
science	p	a	l	e	a	n	t	o	l	o	g	i	s	t	e	a
	r	d	e	d	x	c	e	t	r	y	i	o	u	l	o	n

## The Diaries of Mary Anning – SPAG

A semi-colon is used to join two closely related sentences together without the use of a comma or conjunction. For example: 'The eye of this creature is the size of my face; I can only imagine what the rest of its body is like.'

Re-write the following sentences replacing the comma and conjunction with a semi-colon:

1) I was completely astonished, because the gentleman gave me 25 pounds.

**I was completely astonished; the gentleman gave me 25 pounds.**

2) My father was a carpenter by trade, but his avocation was fossil hunting.

**My father was a carpenter by trade; his avocation was fossil hunting.**

3) The cliffs had been battered by the storms, so fossil hunting was now dangerous.

**The cliffs had been battered by the storms; fossil hunting was now dangerous.**

Commas are used for clarity, breaking up sentences so that they make sense. Rewrite the following sentences inserting the commas correctly:

1) Father and I along with my brother Joseph went down to the beach below Blue Lias Cliffs on the hunt for treasure.

**Father and I, along with my brother Joseph, went down to the beach, below Blue Lias Cliffs, on the hunt for treasure.**

2) I have always been aware that fossil hunting under the cliffs especially after the storms have battered them is incredibly dangerous.

**I have always been aware that fossil hunting under the cliffs, especially after the storms have battered them, is incredibly dangerous.**

Prefixes are added to the fronts of words to change their meaning. 7 new words can be made using the prefixes and words below. Match the correct prefix to the correct word and then re-write the whole word out:

	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">re</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">un</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">dis</div>			
veil	approve	do	place	visit		
redo	replace	revisit	unveil	undo	displace	disapprove