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Wednesday 24th February 2021

L.O: To use a range of adverbials of time in a diary entry

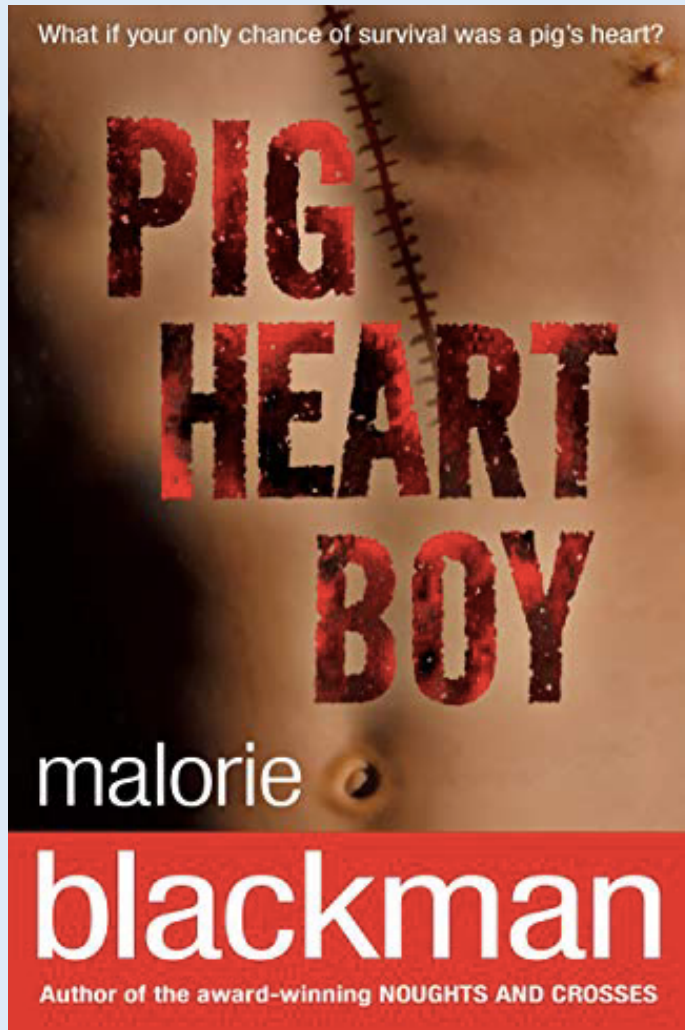
Success Criteria:

To use informal language features

To vary sentence structure

To infer a character's emotions





Today we are reading Chapter 11: Life Lessons and starting Chapter 12: The Clinic

As we are reading, think about Dad and Cam's conversation from yesterday and how Dad is feeling.



Life Lessons

Well, here I am again. It's been a few days since I last spoke to you and a lot has happened since then. I'm going into hospital tomorrow and I'm going to have my operation a few days after that. It's all very hush-hush. Dr Bryce wouldn't even let Mum and Dad tell Nan what's about to happen. I've already had tests and yet more tests and had more blood taken from my arms than I knew I had. And there are more tests to come. So wish me luck. But that's not all. I've finally thought of a name for you. Mum and Dad said I could choose your name but it was a bit difficult because I didn't know – and still don't know – whether you're going to be a girl or a boy. I don't mind, actually. I guess most boys would like a brother but I really don't mind. Anyway, the name I've chosen for you is – are you ready for this? – Alex. Alexander if you're a boy; Alexandra if you're a girl. But I can call you Alex. What d'you think of that? D'you like the name? I hope so. You're going to be stuck with it for a while! I've passed it by Mum and Dad and they both seem happy with it. Mind you, they're both being so nice to me at the moment, I could've suggested

something like Aardvark or Smelly Chops as your name and they would probably have said yes.

So, Alex, here I am! Your brother Cameron. I really do hope and pray that we get the chance to meet and get to know each other. But in the meantime, I'd better get started on my . . . what shall I call them? Life lessons! Yeah, that's a good phrase. Life lessons. Today's life lesson is about parents. I'll be revisiting this topic on a number of occasions, no doubt. That was my newsreader voice! Anyway, back to parents – or, to be more specific, our parents.

Michael and Catherine Kelsey.

What can I say about them? They're not getting on too well at the moment. They are trying for my sake but it's like they're papering over a wall with bumpy and lumpy bits and lots of holes in it. They keep trying to get me to admire the wallpaper, but I can't when I know what's really behind it. You see, the wall spoils the wallpaper but they don't understand that. Does that make sense? I'm not getting too flowery, am I? What I'm trying to say is that they are trying to pretend that everything between them is fine – but my eyes work. I can see for myself that they're lying. And I wish they wouldn't. It makes me feel as if I'm responsible in some way, because I'm ill. My head tells me that Mum and Dad have a lot of things to sort out for themselves that have nothing to do with me, but the gnawing in the pit of my stomach each time they argue makes me want to . . . run away and hide or curl up in a ball on my bed or do something – anything – to get away from them. I don't mean that in a nasty way. I do love Mum and Dad very much –



there, I've said it! I love them very much but they are such hard work.

Dad wrote to Dr Bryce, the man who's going to give me a new heart, and he didn't tell Mum. You can guess how that went down. But then Mum had a bombshell of her own. She was pregnant with you and Dad and I only got to find out because Mum didn't want the X-ray machine to damage you. I can still see Dad's face when Mum said that she was pregnant. He looked so hurt, so unhappy. I wish I'd been a fly on the wall in their bedroom later that night. Since then, they've been very polite to each other but they're not behaving like my mum and dad any more. They are very tippy-toe careful around each other. It's almost as if they're working out exactly what they're going to do and say before they stay in the same room with each other. That's another reason why I'm desperate for this operation to work. If it doesn't, I'm not sure Mum and Dad will still be together when you're born.

I don't want you to blame me for that. God knows I already blame myself enough for the both of us. Anyway, I wanted to talk to you about Mum and Dad, not myself.

The thing to remember about Mum and Dad is that they don't know everything. I'm not saying that they think they know everything. That's not the case. But they do think they have all the answers! But that's not just Mum and Dad really. That's most, if not all grown-ups. They don't like to be told things by anyone under twenty-one. It's as if they believe that the whole world will think they're stupid if we know something that they don't. So watch out for that. It's a real pain.

I'm getting a bit tired now. I think I'll sign off. Wish me luck. This is so strange. I keep talking to you as if you're already here. I like talking to you. You're a great listener! In my mind, I guess I think you are already here. I can't wait to meet you. Let's hope I get the chance.



Chapter Twelve

The Clinic

I sat down on the edge of my single bed and looked around my new room. It was more like a hotel room than a hospital room. There was a television in one corner and a fridge in another. I had my own bathroom and there was even a wardrobe. It was certainly different to all the NHS hospital wards and rooms I'd stayed in before now! So this was what it was like to go into a private hospital! It must be brilliant to have lots of money! I glanced towards the door of my room wondering what was going on outside. Dr Bryce had asked my parents to step outside for a word and they'd been gone at least ten minutes. Part of me couldn't help resenting the fact that the doctor was discussing things about me but not *with* me.

I tilted my head back and closed my eyes. Truth to tell, I didn't want to be alone – not now. Not with only a few days left before my operation. I didn't like feeling this way. I felt like a baby but I couldn't help it. This time next week it would all be over – one way or another. 'Stop it!' I told myself fiercely.

I had to believe that everything would be fine. I had to have faith. If I didn't believe it, then it wouldn't happen. Just at that moment, the door opened.

Mum entered the room, followed by Dr Bryce, Dr Ehrlich and Dad. Mum smiled. 'Hi, dear. Are you OK?'

I nodded eagerly, glad to see them.

'We were just having a discussion about whether or not you should be allowed to keep your camcorder with you,' said Mum.

I frowned. 'Yes. I definitely want it with me.'

'Cameron, that's a little difficult.' Dr Bryce looked concerned. 'For the first few days after the operation you won't be in here. You'll be in intensive care. We have to be very careful that you don't pick up any infections.'

'I want my camcorder . . .' I insisted.

'You'll be too weak to use it.'

'I still want it with me. Maybe one of the nurses could hold it while I talk to Alex.'

'Cameron, I don't want to be difficult—'

'Please, Dr Bryce. That's one of the things I've been most looking forward to – telling Alex how I'm feeling and that I'm still standing. Please.'

Dr Bryce studied me long and hard. 'Very well then. I'll see what I can do.'

I beamed at him. 'Thanks.'

'I haven't promised anything,' he said quickly.

'I know.' I smiled again, knowing I'd won.

'Hhmm!' A trace of a smile flitted across the doctor's



face. 'I'll leave you to settle in. I'll see you in about an hour, Cameron.'

'More tests?'

'More tests,' he confirmed.

During the last week, I'd had more tests at my local hospital than I could count – blood tests, urine tests, allergy tests – they'd even tested my number twos! I'd been hooked up to some strange-looking machine called an ECG or electrocardiogram so they could monitor my heart. I'd had dye pumped into me and so many X-rays taken of my chest, I was surprised I didn't glow in the dark. And now I had more tests coming. Still, as long as the tests meant the operation would work.

'How soon after the operation d'you reckon I can go home?'

'You'll be in intensive care for a while and then we'll keep you in a bit longer than normal to make sure that everything is exactly as it should be. I don't want to state a specific time at this stage. I wouldn't want to give you a timetable and then something happens and we can't keep to it. That would only make you and your parents worry. We'll play it by ear. I think we'll all know when you're well enough to go home.'

And that was his long-winded way of saying he didn't know. I still had 1001 questions, but all at once I didn't want to ask any of them. Not one. I'd ask them after the operation, not before.

I'd wait until my eyes were open and the operation was behind me and I had all the time in the world.



Today, you are writing a diary entry from the perspective of Cam's Dad.

Can you remember the features of a diary entry?

- Informal language
- First person
- Description of thoughts and emotions
- Recalling events in chronological order and clear paragraphs



How do you think Cam's Dad feeling just before Cam goes into the surgery?

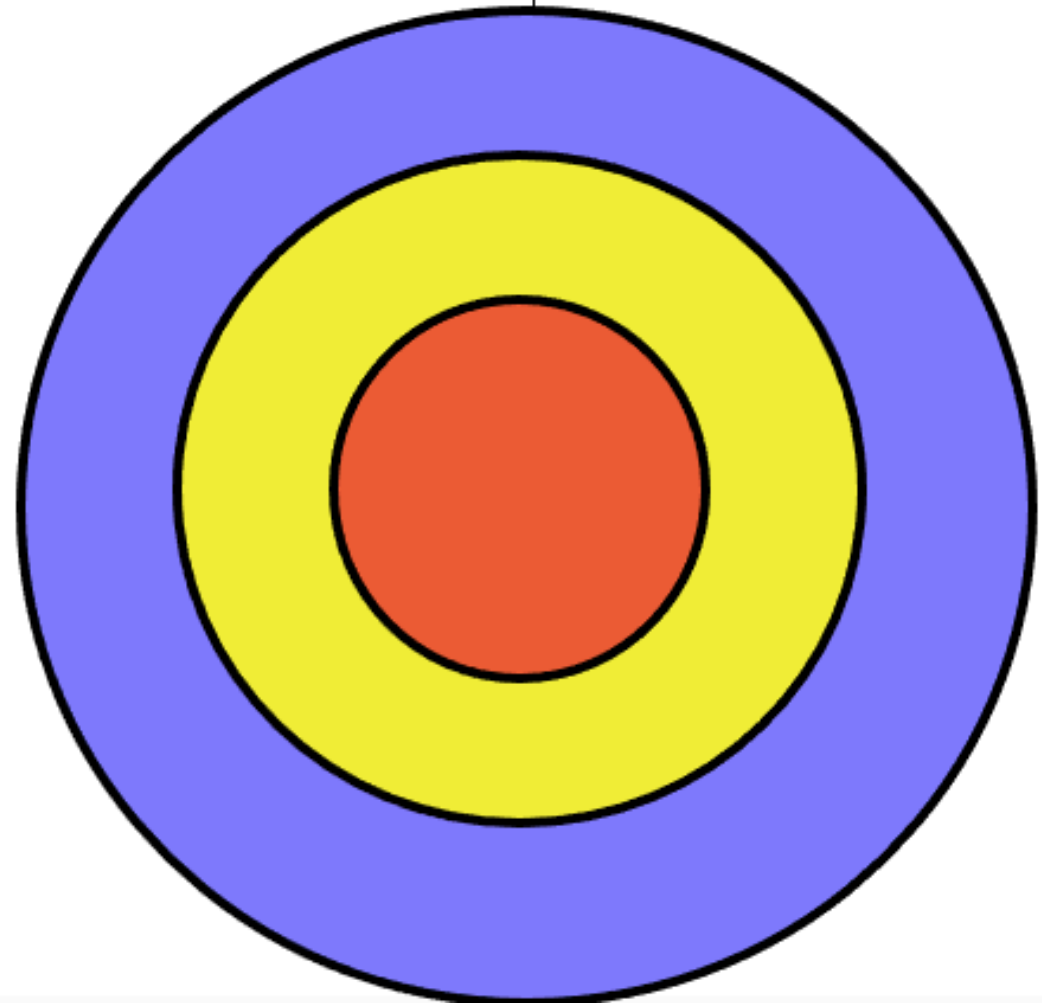
*Use what we know about Cam's Dad to help you.
What inferences did you make yesterday?*

Zone of Relevance Diagram

If a word is irrelevant, put it outside the circle.

If it is relevant, decide how relevant - the more relevant it is the closer it must be to the centre.

confused	stressed	relaxed	anxious
angry	frustrated	peaceful	impatient
excited	exhilarated	worried	hopeful
determined	nervous	withdrawn	terrified



Now we have thought about Michael Kelsey (Cam's Dad)'s emotions. What do you think he would write about in his diary entry? What different key moments?

You might have said:

- How he felt after meeting Dr Bryce and Trudy

Do you think Michael now regrets sending a letter to Dr Bryce or not?

- How he felt after the conversation in the garden

- How he felt arriving at the hospital

It is likely that Mr Kelsey would feel different and a mix of emotions at all these times!



In order to show Michael's emotions at the different key stages, we can use adverbials of time.

Adverbs of time tell us when an action happened, but also for how long, and how often.

We can use them at the beginning, middle or end of a sentence. It is important to vary our sentence structure to keep our writing interesting!



For example:

As soon as he could, Cam, who was looking increasingly frustrated, stormed inside.

Cam, who was looking increasingly frustrated, stormed inside as soon as he could.

Your turn!

Can you choose another adverb of time and use it in different place in a sentence about Cam and his Dad?

Challenge: Can you include a relative clause in the sentence as well?

Time

Afterwards,
Already,
Always,
Immediately,
Last month,
Now,
Soon,
Yesterday,
Today,
Tomorrow,
Next year,
In January,
On Tuesday,
In the morning,
After a while,
As soon as she could,
Before long,
All of a sudden,
In the blink of an eye,
Just then,
Eventually,
Later,



Can you remember the features of a diary entry?

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- First person
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P1. How Michael feels about Dr Bryce and Trudy

P2. The conversation in the garden yesterday

P3. In the clinic the day before the surgery

Year 6 Criteria

Contractions	Subjunctive
Fronted adverbials	Passive Voice
Relative clauses	Semi-colon/colon
Rhetorical Question	Dash for extra info

Michael's Emotions:

Worried
Anxious
Apprehensive
Nervous
Confused
Excited
Protective
Agitated
Terrified
Hopeful

Time

Afterwards,
Already,
Always,
Immediately,
Last month,
Now,
Soon,
Yesterday,
Today,
Tomorrow,
Next year,
In January,
On Tuesday,
In the morning,
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Later,



Use this slide to help you with ideas!

Dear Diary,

Paragraph 1:

The last couple of weeks have been the strangest of my life! I can't believe everything that has happened - my head is spinning! Let me start from the beginning. A month ago, I wrote a letter to Dr Bryce pleading for his help (I had no idea it would get us this far), which I really hope was not a mistake.

How does Michael feel about Trudy? How did he feeling going to the clinic?

Paragraph 2:

What did Michael want to say to his son Cam in the garden yesterday?
What emotions was he feeling?

Paragraph 3:

How does Michael feel in the hospital the day before the surgery?
What does he think about his son being in intensive care?
Should Cam have his video recorder in hospital with him?



Diaries

When did it happen?

This morning

At first

As soon as I woke up

Before long

After a while

Afterwards

During

Later

In the meantime

At that moment

Eventually

In the end

How did it happen?

Without a sound

Without warning

As fast as I could

In the blink of an eye

Awkwardly

Silently

Cautiously

In a flash

Wildly

Softly

Trying not to make a sound

How did you feel?

Sadly

Hopefully

Luckily

Nervously

Frantically

Unfortunately

I felt terrible

It was the worst

I was so happy when

My heart was thumping

In a state of terror

Informal phrases

By the way

You'll never believe this but

Guess what happened!

The thing is

I won't even go there

Anyway

Besides

Perhaps

Maybe

I wonder if

Can you believe it?



Looking forward to reading your diary entries 😊

Please send your finished work to your class teacher:

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