

Lesson 2: Keep a Calendar Journal

Purpose of Lesson 2: You are invited to keep a calendar journal.

Skills: Creative thinking, critical thinking, decision making, reading comprehension, self-reflection, vocabulary and writing.

Words to Learn:

abbreviate - a short way of writing something: *Mon.* is an abbreviation for Monday.


debris - wreckage, the remains of something destroyed: *The car accident left a lot of debris in the street.*

essay - a formal, structured body of writing: *It is important to learn how to write an essay.*

journal - A written record of your thoughts or experiences: *Every day, Marin writes in her journal about the special events of that day.*


Directions: Read the dialogues below and answer the questions that follow.

1



Hi, Dora. How is the family reunion going?

2



Hi, Lee. It's been fun getting ready for it. We have had to write about our family. Believe it or not, I like to write about things like that.

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My grandfather, who we fondly called Babu, wrote on a calendar every day for 20 years. He recorded the weather and important details that happened each day. He kept it on the kitchen wall and everyone loved to read his little notes because they helped recall many important moments.

4

What a neat idea! I guess the calendar was his journal.



5



You should try it. Write about your family in the little boxes on the calendar. As Babu used to say, “You don’t have to write a lot, just the important facts”, and abbreviate.

6

I think I will be the family historian. Imagine how interesting it will be to read my journals years from now!



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Babu would be very pleased. Don't forget to tell our favorite English teacher, Ms. Shine. She will be happy that you like to write.

8

Don't go crazy with this idea. Ms. Shine said we have to learn how to write essays, and I am concerned about that. But, I have to say, I like the idea of my calendar journal and being the family historian. As a matter of fact, my whole family has had fun writing for the reunion!



9



You should encourage Bella and Omar to do a calendar journal of their own. It would be good for them to start writing at an early age. Another reason I like journal writing is that it is just for you, so you don't have to be concerned about spelling or grammar. That will like that, too.

10

Wow, Lee, another good idea. You are turning into an "idea machine" today!



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Help Dora explain the calendar journal to Omar.

11



Lee suggests I try keeping a calendar journal. Tell me about it.

12

Sure, it's easy. Please attempt the quiz below to help describe a calendar journal.



Continued after Quiz 1

13



It sounds cool. It would be a really good way for me to keep track of my homework, games and stuff. Maybe I'll get more organized!

14

You'll also like it because you can write in any style you want. You can use formal and informal abbreviations. No rules!



15



What are you talking about? Now you are beginning to sound like school.

16

Relax, You might have learned abbreviations in school. I'll call formal abbreviations such as "Dr." for "Doctor", "Mr." for "Mister" and "St" for "street". There are also abbreviations that you can make up for your convenience I'll call informal abbreviations. You know, like when I take notes in class or when I text or e-mail.



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How do I know the difference between informal or informal abbreviations?

18

If you come across an unfamiliar abbreviation, it is best to look it up in the dictionary. Most formal abbreviations will have a period at the end, but many formal abbreviations are so well known that they won't use periods. An example of a formal abbreviation without periods would be state abbreviations (New York is NY and Texas is TX).



19



Show me how to make up informal ones. I can think of some very special ways to use them!

20

Okay, but remember, informal abbreviations are just for you. Any other time you use them, they have to be "formal". Don't get me in trouble with your teachers.



Two weeks later...

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How is your calendar coming along?

22

Great! Let me show you. By the way, I think Omar might try it. Thanks for mentioning it to him.



Dora's Calendar Journal

JUNE 2014

SUNDAY	1 Family ate out. Went to zoo. Very hot. Omar bit by bee! Ouch!	8 Study for school tests. Cook out with neighbors. Warm & beautiful. Uncle Ed's anniversary.
MONDAY	2 Wk'ed after school. Called Tonya re. reunion. Plans are good. Much rain and lightning.	9 Sch. work for all. Study study! Mom & dad take care of Lucy for me. Thanks!
TUESDAY	3 Took dog to vet. Dad in CA for 3 days. Warm & sunny. We worked in yd. & gar.	10 More studying, no TV or phone calls after dinner. Nice day and evening! Mom made cookies for Nicholas. Delicious!
WEDNESDAY	4 2 nd lightning storm. Tree in back yd. broke. Neighborhood a big mess. Wet and cool.	11 Math ex. Fri.--very hard. Mom made apple pie. Yum! Dad helps us study. Quiet house.
THURSDAY	5 Clean up after storm. I'm in charge: 30 bags of debris ! Omar & Bella helped. Hot & humid.	12 Beau is going to Greece! Cool trip. Mom bought flowers and tom. for garden. Beautiful June.
FRIDAY	6 Bought new AC. Dad is back. T-Shirts from CA for all. Hot & humid. A. Marcia's B-day.	13 Bella has sch. dance. Red dress looks great. Lee & I went to movies. Warm...love it.
SATURDAY	7 Beach & pic. Everyone there--fun, fun! Saw falling stars. Mom saw the most. Hot & humid. Ana and Olivia built the BEST sandcastle.	14 Family wk. day. Wk'ed in yd. & gar. Had cook out. DELICIOUS! Astronauts back home. Omar loves the space prog. Warm.

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That's really cool. I see you used a lot of abbreviations. Does your family like it?

24

Are you kidding? They love it. I'm the official family historian. By the way, did you understand my abbreviations?



Let's look at the abbreviations Dora used in her calendar. A tip! Remember that abbreviations are usually the first few letters of the word of the first few letters and the last letters.