

“Zlata’s Diary” by Zlata Filipović
Vocabulary Warm-up Word Lists

Study these words from “Zlata’s Diary.” Then complete the activities that follow.

Word List A

calendar [KAL uhn der] *n.* a chart showing all the days, weeks, and months in a year
I checked the calendar to see what day of the week it was.

defend [di FEND] *v.* to protect something or someone from harm
Dwayne tried to defend his sister from the local bully.

innocent [IN uh sent] *adj.* free from wrong, guiltless
Kim didn’t understand why the innocent dog was kept in a cage; he’d never hurt a fly!

separating [SEP uh ray ting] *v.* parting or dividing things or people
There was a wall separating the sixth grade classroom from the lunchroom and gym.

terrified [TER uh fyd] *adj.* very frightened
Terrified of snakes, the hiker looked all around before taking a step.

thirsty [THER stee] *adj.* a need or a desire for liquid
After spending the day in the hot sun, Ellen was thirsty.

thundering [THUHN der ing] *adj.* making a loud, rumbling noise like thunder
The plane made a thundering sound as it took off down the runway.

victim [VIK tim] *n.* a person or thing that is hurt, killed, or made to suffer
Just outside the bank, the thief chose his next victim to rob.

Word List B

childhood [CHYLD hood] *n.* the time when you are a child
Kevin had a happy childhood growing up in the country.

despair [di SPAIR] *n.* a complete loss of hope
Angela felt despair after dropping out of the race.

incredible [in KRED uh buhl] *adj.* unbelievable or amazing
Maria could barely believe the incredible news that she had won first prize.

journalist [JER nuh list] *n.* person who researches and writes articles
Paul dreamed of being a journalist and working for a newspaper.

politics [PAHL i tiks] *n.* the ideas and activities involved in governing a country, city, etc.
Tess wanted to work in politics so she ran for state senator.

positive [PAHS i tiv] *adj.* sure or certain
Carlos was positive he knew the right answer to the question.

shattering [SHAT er ing] *v.* breaking into tiny pieces
The glass fell off the table, shattering into a million pieces.

specialize [SPESH uhl lyz] *v.* focus on one area of work
Max chose to specialize in pediatrics in medical school.

Learning About Nonfiction

Nonfiction writing is about real people, places, ideas, and experiences. This chart shows many of the common elements and types of nonfiction.

Elements/Types of Nonfiction	Definitions and Examples
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chronological: presents details or events in time order • cause-and-effect: shows the relationships among events • comparison-and-contrast: shows how two or more subjects are alike and different
Author's role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An author's influences include his or her heritage, culture, experiences, and personal beliefs. • An author's style is the way he or she puts ideas into words. • The author's influences and style have a strong impact on the mood, or overall feeling, of the writing. • An author's purpose, or reason, for writing can include to entertain, to inform, to explain how to do something, and to persuade.
Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biography and autobiography: life stories of real people • letters, journals, and diaries: personal thoughts and reflections • media accounts: nonfiction in newspapers, magazines, TV, or radio • reference materials/textbooks: information, explanations, instructions • essays and articles: short nonfiction that focuses on a particular subject, such as historical accounts, persuasive essays, etc.

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions by underlining each correct answer.

1. Which pattern of organization would be best for an article that explains why thunder booms?

chronological

cause-and-effect

comparison-and-contrast

2. Which pattern of organization would be best for an article that explains the differences between parrots and parakeets?

chronological

cause-and-effect

comparison-and-contrast

3. What purpose would an author have for writing a funny article about his dog?

to persuade

to entertain

to explain how to do something

4. Where would you be most likely to find a media account of a meeting between leaders?

in an encyclopedia

in an essay

in a newspaper

5. Which type of nonfiction would be most likely to contain personal thoughts and reflections?

a diary

a biography

a reference book

Segment 1: Meet Zlata Filipović

- What influences helped Zlata Filipović decide to keep a diary? Why do you think it is a good idea to write daily in a journal or diary?

Segment 2: Zlata Filipović Introduces *Zlata's Diary*

- How did the content of Zlata's diary change over time? What do you think you could learn by reading a diary written during wartime?

Segment 3: The Writing Process

- How did Zlata's diary become a published book? How did the publication of her diary significantly change her life?

Segment 4: The Rewards of Writing

- How do you think Zlata's journal has had an impact on others? Why is *Zlata's Diary* important to society?

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