



Queen Victoria – Dear Diary ...

Primary

Victoria started a diary in 1832, when she was just 13 years old. She continued writing for 69 years, until just 10 days before her death, filling 121 volumes. It is estimated that Victoria wrote more than 2,000 words a day – about 60 million words during her lifetime. Her diaries are now kept in the Round Tower at Windsor Castle. Let's have a look at some of diary entries relating to key moments in the Queen's life.



Queen Victoria's Coronation, 28 June 1838

with the D^{ts} of Sutherland & L^{ts} Albemarle & the Legation near Progress - It was a fine day, & the crowd of people exceeded what I have ever seen, being even much greater than when I went to the City. There were millions of my loyal subjects, assembled in every spot, to witness the Procession. Their joy

I really cannot say how proud I felt to be the Queen of such a nation.

was almost an hour from the time I could be crowned, in consequence of the tremendous heat & pressure. Reached the Abbey a little after 1/2 p. 11, amidst deafening cheers. I then went into a robing room, quite close to the entrance, where I met my 8 Train Beareresses: L^{ts} Caroline Lemon, L^{ts} Adelaide Paget, L^{ts} Mary Talbot, L^{ts} Fanny Cooper, L^{ts} Katherina Thutcher, L^{ts} Anne Fitzwilliams, L^{ts} Mary Grimston & Lady Louisa Parkinson, all dressed alike & beautifully, in white satin & silver tinsel, with wreaths of silver feathers on the front.

Victoria became Queen in 1837 when she was 18 years old. She succeeded her uncle, William IV. In her diary, she describes her journey to the Coronation a year later, riding in the magnificent golden state coach.

On the page opposite, can you read how Victoria felt when she saw all the crowds waving and cheering?



Victoria & Albert's Wedding Day, 10 February 1840

'MY DEAREST Albert ...
His excessive love and affection gave me feelings of heavenly love and happiness I never could have *hoped* to have felt before! His beauty, his sweetness and gentleness—really how can I ever be thankful enough to have such a *Husband!* ...

This was the happiest day of my life'



Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha in February 1840. After the wedding they travelled to Windsor Castle. By the time they arrived that evening, the young Queen was tired and had to lie down. The brief repose restored Victoria's energy and she later wrote that neither she nor Albert had any sleep on their wedding night. Within weeks of the wedding, Victoria was pregnant. The child, Victoria (Vicky), was the first of nine.



It is clear how much Victoria loved Albert. Write a diary entry about a memorable day that you spent with someone you care about – maybe a friend, parent or grandparent? Make sure you describe how you feel about that special person.

Date

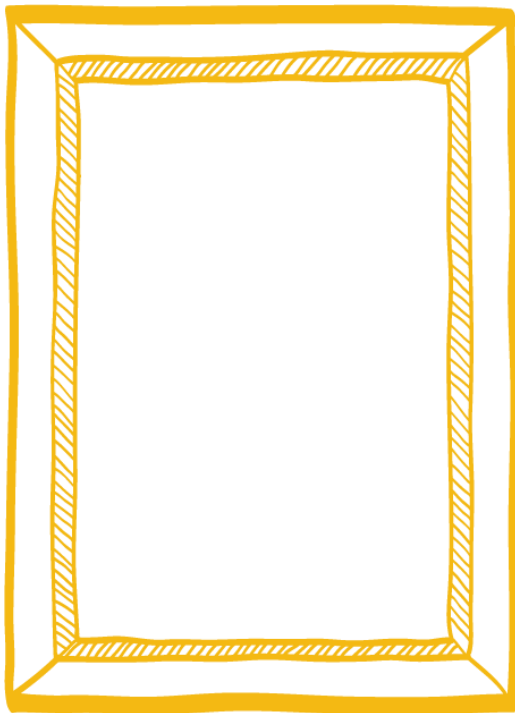


Queen Victoria's love of dogs

This statue of Victoria is in the Grand Vestibule at Windsor Castle. The room is full of fascinating royal gifts and other amazing artefacts.

Can you see the dog sitting next to the Queen? This is Sharp, one of Queen Victoria's favourite dogs. She owned over 100 dogs in her lifetime.

Find out more about the treasures in this room here – [The Grand Vestibule](#).



Do you have a favourite animal?

It might be a pet or a creature you have seen on TV or in a book.

Draw a picture of it here and write some words to explain why it is your favourite animal.

Sharp lived with Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle. His affection was reserved only for her. He was her most trusted and closest friend. However, he was rather difficult with strangers and other dogs. Queen Victoria wrote in her diary on Wednesday 6 September 1869:

'At five minutes to eleven rode off with Beatrice, good Sharp going with us and having occasional "collie-shangies" [quarrels] with collies when we came near cottages.'

After Sharp's death he was buried in the Queen's private garden at Windsor. His memorial reads: 'Sharp, the favourite and faithful Collie of Queen Victoria from 1866 to 1879'.



Christmas at Windsor



Queen Victoria spent every Christmas with her family at Windsor Castle. They always exchanged gifts on Christmas Eve. Gifts included paintings of each other, as well as other works of art and even jewels. This is what Victoria wrote about Christmas at Windsor:

'At a little after 6 we all assembled and my beloved Albert first took me to my tree and table, covered by such numberless gifts, really too much, too magnificent'.

Christmas activities included singing, performing plays and winter sports. Albert loved skating at the lake in Windsor Park. Victoria preferred to be pushed around in her sledge.

Christmas' continued at the Castle until Albert died there in 1861, aged only 42.

You have been invited to spend Christmas Day at Windsor Castle. Describe what it would be like there at Christmas. What gifts might you want to receive? What would you like to do during the day? What might you expect for Christmas Dinner?

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