



Au2 English – Year 6

Blitz Diary Unit



L1



L1 - Starter (Draft Books – but still keep it neat!)

Build a sentence:

The boy hid.

Identify the noun? Identify the verb? Determiner (article)?
Tense? Person?

Now build the sentence.

Add an adjective. Add an adverb. Add a subordinate clause
(Where did he hide? How did he hide? Who did he hide with?).

Now flip it! Change the sentence starter. ISPACED?



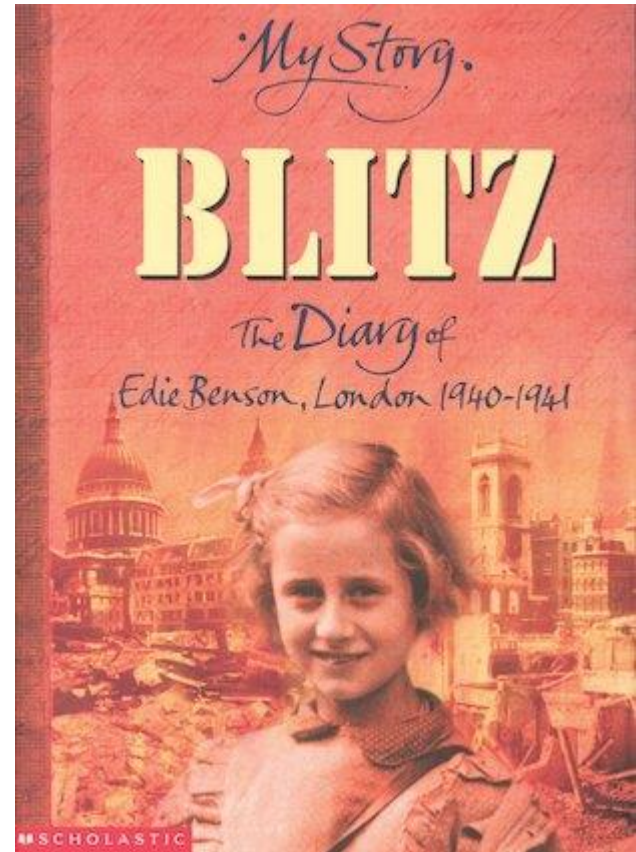
L1 – Diary / Text Marking

For this Unit, we are going to be exploring the Diary of Edie Benson who lived during the Blitz in London.

We will be writing our own diary excerpt based on her experiences and our understanding of the Blitz from our History lessons.

We are going to start by identifying some of the features of her diary.

Read the diary on the following slides then highlight the important features as explained in the handout.





Saturday, 20th July 1940

I jumped out of my skin when the air-raid siren started wailing last evening. I was in the garden picking sweet peas for Mum and the whole bunch nearly went on the ground. It was very hot, even at seven o'clock, and there wasn't a breath of wind, the kind of weather that always makes you feel something's about to happen.

At tea Mum had been saying how rattled everyone seemed. That morning there'd been chatter at the shops. Someone knew for certain the Germans were going to invade this weekend, and they'd be in London by Monday unless our boys looked sharp. There are always rumours doing the rounds. It's difficult to know who to believe.

Anyway, Mum shouted from the kitchen for me to come in at once, sounding panicky. I wasn't going to argue. I couldn't see or hear any German bombers, but I've never been in an air-raid. How much time do you have between hearing a bomber fly over your house, and a bomb dropping and blowing you to bits?



As I went up the steps to go inside, I could see old Mrs Andrews from next door. She was walking in circles around her patch of lawn, looking up at the sky and wagging her finger, just like she was giving someone a good telling-off. God or the Germans? Who knows?

From inside our kitchen we could still hear her, the muttering turning into shouting.

"She'll get herself killed, she will," said Mum, sounding anxious and exasperated. "Barmy woman! Whatever's she doing?" Mum wafted me towards the hall. "You, go and get yourself under the stairs quick, while I try to sort Bessie out. As if life wasn't difficult enough!"

We're waiting for a proper air-raid shelter to be put in the garden. The Council's going to deliver one this week. In the meantime we're making do by sitting under the stairs or the kitchen table. It seems daft to me, but Mum says it's better than nothing.

I didn't do what Mum asked. I wanted to see what happened. I watched as she ran down the garden, out the back gate, and into Bessie Andrews's wilderness.

Old Bessie was drifting around in a world of her own. Mum might as well not have been there. Mum tried talking to her softly and when that didn't work



she caught Bessie by the shoulders and shook her gently. The mad old woman pulled away and stared in complete amazement as if it was Mum who was off her head. I held my breath, wondering what I'd do if Bessie started hitting out. But she broke away in a sudden flood of tears and scuttled inside to her thirteen cats. Like Mum says, completely barmy!

Because it was Friday evening, and Dad was doing an extra shift at the Fire Station, no one else was at home, so Mum and I crouched together under the stairs listening to the wireless until, fifteen minutes later, the all-clear sounded. Just another false alarm!

Monday, 22nd July

When my sister Shirl crept out to go off to work this morning, I lay in bed for an extra half-hour. While the birds chirruped away merrily in the tree outside our window, all I could feel was miserable. It seems so muddled that there can be a beautiful blue sky and thrushes singing their heads off while there's a war



with Germany going on, ships being sunk and people shooting at each other.

There's no one left to talk to, now that Maggie's gone. Alison left first, back in the panic last September. Lots of the children from my class at school were evacuated then, to Bexhill in Sussex. Mum says she can't think why they think it's safer there. If the Germans invade, it's the first place they'll arrive. Then, in May, Betty's parents got all nervous and packed her off to her Aunt Sally's in Devon.

Maggie's my best friend. She'd always said her family would never send her away, until last Friday she suddenly mentions casually she's off to Northampton till I don't know when. She might as well be going to the moon, as far as I'm concerned. So here I am all on my own-i-o, and feeling really fed-up and lonely, even if the sky is a wonderful clear blue.

That's why for the first time ever I've decided I'll keep a diary. I'm going to write down my real feelings about the awful, frightening war in this old exercise book. If I haven't got Mags, Alison or Betty to talk to, at least I'll have some way of giving vent to my thoughts and feelings.





SC – Text Marking

Use the diary excerpts and the SC in the folder to highlight the features of the text. Choose which SC you wish to use *, ** or ***.

I can talk about the features of a piece of writing and identify a genre from clues in the text.	
I can identify and highlight the features of a text, using a key to identify each feature.	
KEY:	
Dates and times	
Past tense: <i>I heard a deafening noise.</i> Not: <i>I hear a deafening noise</i>	
Written in the first person: <i>I could see old <u>Mrs Andrews</u> from next door, peering over the fence.</i>	
Short dramatic sentence: <i>Just another false alarm!</i>	
Medium length sentence to add detail: 1 - 2 lines.	
Circle one with a <u>co-ordinating</u> conjunction (But So And Or Yet)	
Circle one with a subordinating conjunction (Whilst As Because If When After Before Although)	
Rhetorical question (a question which you can't really answer) punctuated with a question mark - - highlight one examples	
Use of speech	
Interesting vocabulary e.g. 'crouched' / 'cower' - highlight two examples	
Technical vocabulary e.g. World War 2 words: <i>Nazi, Air Raid Siren</i> -- highlight two examples	
Chatty language e.g. 'Ugh!' / 'blow you to bits' / 'cat on a hot tin roof' - - highlight one example	



Anderson Shelters

