

Mary Flagan Val's Diary

School's over at last! The summer holidays are here but who wants to spend them in the countryside? Not Val, of course! She hates the country, but eventually she'll change her mind. Guess why! Read her diary and find out.

She tells her diary all about herself, her moods, her emotions and her dreams. This country holiday is really boring and she can't stand it, but don't despair ... something very exciting will happen soon, thanks to Luke and the others!

In this reader you'll find:

- Focus on: A World of Cakes, Famous Diaries
- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and grammar activities including B1 Preliminary style exercises and 21st century skills activities
- Final test

Tags

Family | Love & Friendship | Holidays

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STAGE 1	600 headwords	Elementary	A1	Movers
STAGE 1	800 headwords	Pre-intermediate	A2	Flyers/Key
● STAGE 3	1000 headwords	Intermediate	B1	Preliminary

Original

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ELT
B1
Mary Flagan

Val's Diary

Stage 3 B1

Teen Readers

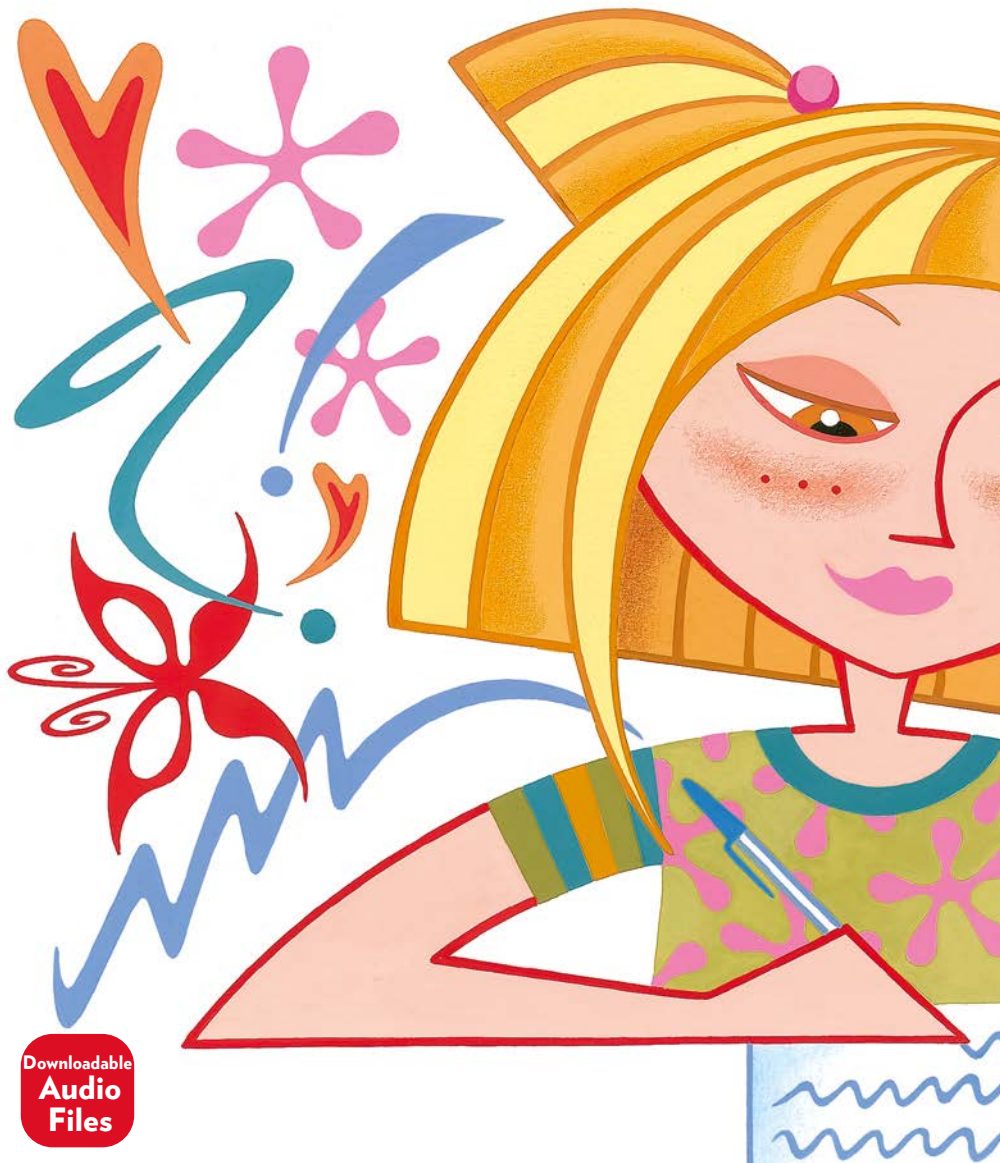


Teen Readers

Original

Mary Flagan

Val's Diary



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Book brief

- 1** Set in modern times, it tells the story of Val and her family on holiday in a village in the countryside.
- 2** As the title of the book suggests, the story is told through what Val writes in her diary.
- 3** Through her diary, the reader can understand how Val feels when lots of changes start to happen in her life.
- 4** Val can't stand the countryside and is horrified when she discovers that her parents are thinking of moving there forever.
- 5** Main themes include friendship, change, emotions and dreams.

Mary Flagan

Val's Diary

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Main Characters

Mrs Rowell
Val's mum. She
isn't good at
making cakes.

Val
She's 14 years old
and loves living
in the city.

Mrs Perry
One of the
neighbours. She's
great at making
cakes.

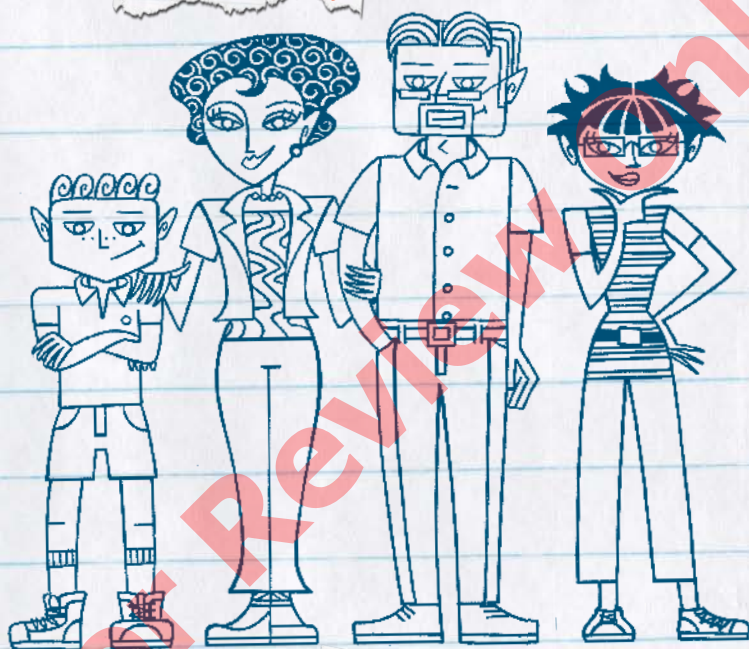


Mr Rowell
Val's dad. He
loves growing
vegetables in his
garden.

Jason
Val's brother.
He's 12 years old.

Luke
Dr and Mrs
Smollett's son.
He's 16 years old
and good-looking.

Mrs Smollet
*The doctor's wife.
Her name's Sarah
and she's friendly.*



Mark
*Dr and Mrs
Smollett's younger
son. He's 12 years
old like Jason.*

Doctor Smollet
*He's great at
playing darts.*

Sally
*Val's best friend
in the city.*

Before you read

Speaking

- 1 Use the words in the box to describe the picture.

lake wood
bike track
manor house



Vocabulary

- 2 Unscramble the letters in the the jumbled words to find out what Val's dad and Jason are saying.



I'm Mr Rowell. My dream is to live in the *ceyorsnidut*.
countryside

- 1 In the country the air is *canle* and the people are *hdrawkoirng*!

- 2 I'll do some vegetable gardening: I'll grow and eat our own *crortas*, *tmoateos*, *lttueec*, *oonins* and *patsotoe*.

- 3 Hi! My name's Jason and I can't wait to go to the country in our *lettill* cottage.

- 4 Wow! I can make a *teer hsoue* and use my *rkcuscka*!

- 5 Come on! Let's go *simwmngi* and hiking!



Vocabulary

3 Match the words to make phrases.

- ☒ polluted
- 1 ☐ block of
- 2 ☐ shopping
- 3 ☐ fast food
- 4 ☐ best
- 5 ☐ chat
- 6 ☐ computer

- a restaurant
- b on the phone
- c centre
- d flats
- e friend
- f games
- ~~g~~ air

Reading B1 Preliminary

4 Complete the text about what Val says with one word in each space.

I love living in the city. My little flat is (1) _____ beautiful that I'd like to live here forever. When I look (2) _____ of the window, I (3) _____ see all the cars in the streets. The place is always (4) _____ of people shopping or going (5) _____ the cinema. I love chatting to my friends on the phone for hours or having (6) _____ to eat in our favourite fast food restaurant.

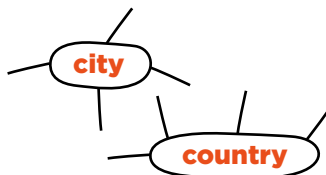
Speaking and Writing

21st
Century
Skills

5 A Complete the mind map with the adjectives. Then add your own.

There are no correct or incorrect answers. You can use the adjectives to describe either or both cities and the country.

relaxing boring
quiet busy noisy
clean exciting
polluted



5 B Now discuss with your partner if you prefer life in the countryside or in the city and say why.

Summer in the Country

Friday, 1st July

► 2 Dear Diary,

It was my birthday last Saturday.

What a disaster¹! I wanted a pair of rollerblades².

And what did I get? A pair of hiking boots³! Yuck!

I hate the countryside. Mum was watching me when I opened the present.

‘Oh, Val, you’re never happy!’ she said.

Well, I wanted rollerblades not hiking boots, but I didn’t say anything.

I couldn’t have a birthday party because school is over⁴ for the summer and all my friends are at the seaside or abroad.

Even Sally, my best friend, is away and here I am all alone with just my parents and my horrible little brother.

His name is Jason and he’s 12, two years younger than me. I can’t stand him. He’s so annoying!

He gave me this diary for my birthday.

¹ **disaster** when everything goes wrong

² **rollerblades** 

³ **hiking boots** 

⁴ **over** finished

Val isn’t happy because she got hiking boots and not rollerblades for her birthday. She couldn’t have a party because it’s the summer holidays and all her friends are away.



Val is only writing her diary because she’s bored. She’s thinking about all the presents she didn’t like that she got for her birthday.

Val's Diary

What a stupid present!

I'm only writing in it because I'm so bored.

It's going to be an awful¹ summer.

¹**awful** when everything goes wrong



Mary Flagan

Friday, 1st July

Dear Diary,

We're going on holiday to Greenhill tomorrow.

Dad's driving. It's a small village in the middle of nowhere about 20 miles¹ from the city centre.

Mum and Dad want to go and live there forever.

They say that they're tired of all the traffic and air pollution² here.

Jason is really happy. His rucksack is packed and ready.

He put in nails, a hammer, a small saw, a rope, a blanket, a water bottle, a magnifying glass, a box of matches and three tins of meat! He calls me Friday and I'm fed up³ with it.

I don't like playing silly games like Robinson Crusoe! Nobody ever asks me what I want to do.

I like living here in the city. I've got my school and

Val isn't happy about going on holiday to Greenhill, a small village in the countryside. However, her brother likes the idea and her parents would like to live there forever.



Jason is happy and is getting everything ready for his holiday in Greenhill.

¹ mile about 1.609 km

² air pollution dangerous and damaging gases and chemicals in the air

³ fed up with tired of

Hammer



Nails



Magnifying glass



Box of matches



Water bottle



Val's Diary

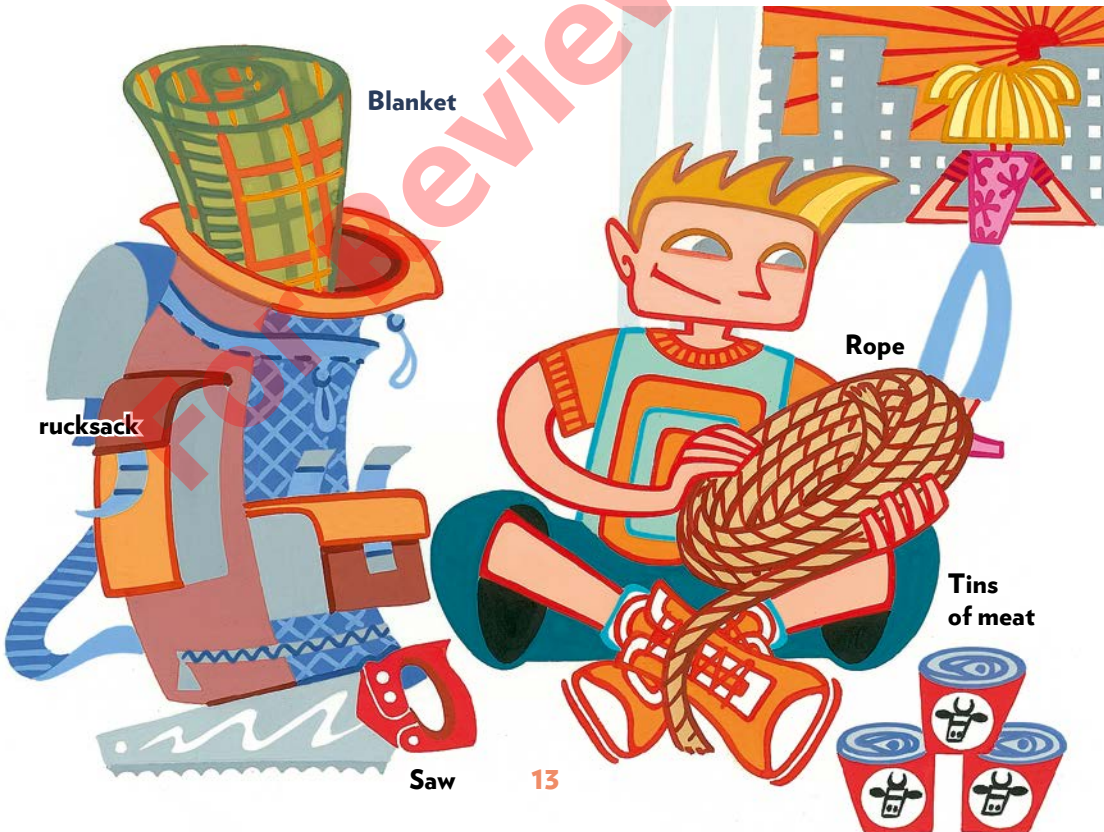
all my friends and my bedroom here in our little flat. I certainly don't want to go and live in Greenhill!

What a silly name for a town anyway!

'We'll just have a nice relaxing holiday there and then we'll decide,' said Mum. Humph! What she really means is that she'll decide! Democracy¹ doesn't exist in this family!

Val loves her life in the city and doesn't want to go and live in the countryside. She knows that in the end, her parents will decide.

¹ **democracy** (here) when everybody decides together, not just one person



Mary Flagan

Sunday, 3rd July

Dear Diary,

We arrived at Greenhill today. It's a tiny village. There isn't even a cinema or a fast food restaurant!

There are only about ten houses, a church and a corner shop which sells everything under the sun: food, newspapers, clothes and even shoes.

There's a café at the back where you can eat and drink. There are only about three tables.

My brother is over the moon¹ because there's a lake, a wood and a bike track². As soon as we arrived, he ran out into the garden.

He began jumping about and shouting.

'Mum, Dad, look!'

Mum, Dad and I ran into the garden.

'What is it?' asked Dad.

'A tree that's just perfect for a treehouse,' said Jason.

'That's a really good idea! I'll help you,' said

Greenhill is tiny with only about ten houses, a church and one shop that sells everything. Jason loves it because there's a wood, a lake and a bike track.

¹ over the moon really happy

² bike track cycle path



The village of Greenhill.



Mary Flagan

Dad, 'I'll be Robinson and you can be Friday.'

'No', said Jason, 'you can be Robinson, I'll be your son and Val can be Fri ...'

'Don't even think about it,' I said. 'Now I'm going into the house to find my bedroom and I don't want to be disturbed¹ for the rest of the holiday. I certainly won't be Friday.' I put up a DO NOT DISTURB sign on my bedroom door, but I know that Jason is going to drive me mad² anyway.

When can I go home? 🏠

Jason's dad likes the idea of making a treehouse and playing Robinson Crusoe but Val just wants to be left alone in her room.

Think

Do your parents ever choose holiday places that you don't like?

¹ **disturb** annoy

² **drive someone mad** make someone very annoyed



Jason and his dad want to make a treehouse but Val just wants to stay in her room.



Reading Comprehension

- 1** Decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false sentences.

	T	F
Val has recently had a birthday.	☒	☐
1 Val is fed up with living in the city.	☐	☐
2 Jason's rucksack is empty.	☐	☐
3 Jason is going to make a treehouse.	☐	☐
4 The sign on Val's bedroom door says: Come in!	☐	☐
5 Greenhill is a big town.	☐	☐

Writing

- 2** Collect information about Greenhill village from Val's diary and write notes in the table.

Village
Facilities - shops, library
Nature

Grammar

3 Complete the sentences with the verbs in the correct tense.

want ~~give~~ shout put up go put get

Jason ~~gave~~ Val a diary for her birthday.

- 1 Jason _____ lots of things in his rucksack.
- 2 Val _____ rollerblades but she _____ hiking boots.
- 3 Jason ran into the garden and _____.
- 4 Val _____ to her bedroom.
- 5 Then she _____ a *do not disturb* sign.

Vocabulary

4 Match the phrases with their meanings.

☒ democracy doesn't exist in this family

1 ☐ over the moon

2 ☐ fed up with

3 ☐ he drives me mad

4 ☐ I can't stand him

5 ☐ everything under the sun

a he makes me angry

b very happy and enthusiastic

c I find him very annoying

d everything you can think of

e tired of something or someone

~~f~~ not everyone can make decisions in the family

Before-reading Activity

Speaking B1 Preliminary

- 5 A Work in pairs. Each of you is going to talk on your own for about a minute.

Student A turn to page 17.

Look at the picture. Tell your partner what you can see.

Student B turn to page 27.

Look at the picture. Tell your partner what you can see.

- 5 B Discuss what you think is going to happen in the next chapter.