



TOP SECRET!



Meredith Costain

with thanks to the Gold Street Primary School  
Reading Club – Miette, Aristeia, Esther, Alicia, Kitty,  
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for their fantabulously fabulous ideas!—M.C.

For our beautiful girls Jade and Zoe—D.M.



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## Monday, after dinner

~~Dear Diary,~~



~~Hello Diary. My name's Ella and~~

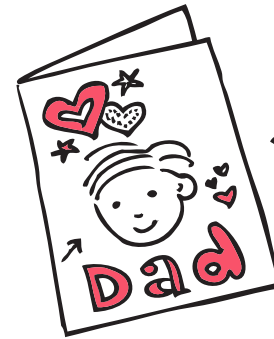
~~Once upon a time there was  
a girl called Ella. She lived~~



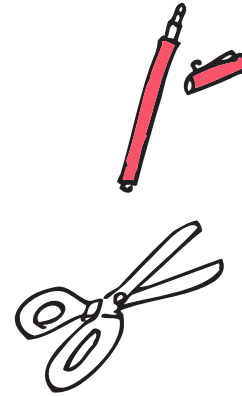
How are you supposed to start a diary? I've never had one before. Mum and Dad gave me this one for **Christmas** because



a) I like writing. I'm always writing stories and they **love** the poems I make up for their birthdays and other special days.



Inside  
of CARD:



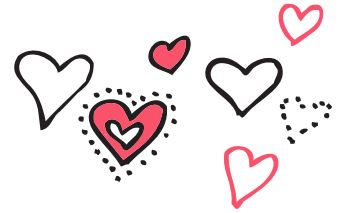
b) They think I have a good imagination and they think writing something every day is a good way to 'exercise' it.



c) I'm going into **Grade 5** this year (starting tomorrow!) and Dad says Grade 5 was the **best year of his life**. He thinks I should write down all the things that happen each day so that when I'm an oldie like him I can look back and remember all the amazing and fun things I did over the year.



well, that's what they think, anyway. My best friend Zoe has a diary, and she says that you can tell it all your **secrets** and stuff about how you feel, like when something makes you sad or angry.



I'm going to tell you absolutely everything, Dearest Diary. But trust me—I'd never let anyone else get their hands on you . . . **EVER.**



**TOP SECRET**

So, here's my first secret,  
and only you will know. I'm,  
um . . . a little bit nervous  
about going back to school  
tomorrow. Phew, I said it!  
We've got a new teacher this  
year. What if we don't get on?  
Or she wants us to spend  
the whole year doing maths  
problems or boring stuff  
like the names of rivers and  
capital cities?

$2 \times 2 = \text{too boring!}$



Mr Zugaro, my teacher last year,  
was amazing. We made up our  
own plays and acted them out  
and wrote all kinds of stories.

He even showed us lots of different ways  
to write poems, which I love! ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

And now I write them all the time. Here, in  
my room—not just for school. I guess you  
could call me a

**SECRET**  
scribbler.

Oops! My little sister Olivia just came in  
but I managed to hide you under my pillow  
just in time. When it comes to people I  
don't want reading my diary, Olivia is at the  
top of my list.

