A Monkey's Diary Entry

Task Description

Students played the role of a monkey living in Kowloon Hills and wrote a simple diary entry on what happened one day. In the diary, students wrote about

- their activities and special events during the day,
- some monkeys in their troop, and
- their thoughts and feelings.

Preparation

Before writing the diary, students learned some vocabulary items about monkeys' daily activities and the use of the simple past tense in recalling past events. To help students generate ideas, students were given different picture cards and placed in groups to talk about some daytime activities that the monkeys liked doing on their own and in their troops. The teacher then asked some students to share with the class some special things that happened to the monkey and drew their attention to some stylistic features appropriate to a diary entry.

Learning Outcomes: ATMs4–5

Content	Organisation	Language and Style
ATM4 **Writing short texts to convey simple information, ideas, personal experiences and opinions on familiar topics with some elaboration**	**ATM5** **Linking ideas quite coherently in some parts of a text, and showing some overall organisation of ideas**	**ATM4** **Using a small range of quite appropriate and accurate language forms and functions, and showing an awareness of tone, style, register and features of some text types**

The student can
 	
• write simple descriptions about the family's food hunt from the perspective of a monkey with some details, e.g. who stole their food and how they managed to get some food at the end
 	
• describe the weather and people with some details, e.g. 'Today was a sunny day. The air was fresh.', '…I saw people taking a plastic bag. I knew that was a 7-eleven plastic bag.'
 	
• share personal experience and feelings about the monkey's food hunt that day, e.g. 'We found food the whole day. Although we found a few nuts, we still felt hungry.', '… we had a yummy dinner.', 'At night, we are so tired…I'm going to sleep early.'
	The student can
	
	• establish links in some paragraphs,
	  - using adverbial time phrases to specify a particular time in a day, e.g. 'In the evening,…', 'At night,…'
	  - using cohesive device 'so' to talk about the result of an event or action, e.g. 'So I needed to find food again with my family.', 'So, we stole their bag.', '…we are so tired, so we haven't played any games.'
	
	• Present the sequence of events that happened to a monkey in a day, e.g. the food stolen by a monkey king, the monkey and its family members searching food and stealing plastic bag from people in Paragraph 3 and 4 respectively
	
	• structure the diary which shows a clear record of activities in a day, e.g. introducing the weather and plans for the day in Paragraph 1, recording what
		The student can
		
		• use a small range of vocabulary to talk about:
		  - food, e.g. 'nuts', 'bananas', 'fuilts' (fruits)
		  - weather and environment, e.g. 'sunny', 'air', 'fresh'
		
		• use correct word collocations, e.g. 'yummy dinner', 'played (any) games', 'sleep early'
		
		• use the concessive clause 'Although we found a few nuts, …' to refer to the situation that contrasts the one described in the main clause
		
		• use a small range of tenses, e.g.
		  - the simple past tense to talk about past actions, 'found', 'took', 'felt', 'saw', 'stole'
		  - the present continuous tense to indicate something that is likely to happen, e.g. 'I'm going to sleep early.'
		
		• use the stylistic features appropriate to a diary entry,

	the monkey and its family did during the day in Paragraphs 2-4 and ending the diary briefly with the monkey's feelings	e.g. writing about the weather of the day when the diary was written and recording what the writer had done during the day in chronological order

Dear Diary,

Today was a sunny day. The air was fresh. I need to find more food for my family.

Than I found some nuts, bananas, fuilts etc. But when I took them to my home, suddenly, a monkey king stole my foods. So I needed to find food again with my family.

We found food the whole day. Although we found a few nuts, we still felt hungry.

In the evening, I saw people taking a plastic bag. I knew that was a 7-eleven plastic bag. So we stole their bag. Then we had a yummy dinner.

At night, we are so tired, so we haven't played any games. I'm going to sleep early. Good-night.