

### Section 1:

**#1: Opening hook and premise** "Dear Diary, today my life changed forever. It all started when my mum was pregnant with a baby and me and the doctors thought it would be a bouncing baby boy."

#### Strengths:

- Your diary opening immediately captures attention with a strong statement that creates curiosity about what happened
- You've set up a clear expectation (expecting a boy) that will be challenged, which builds interest

**Weakness: Clarity gap** → The timeline becomes confusing because you write "today my life changed forever" but then describe events that happened over time (pregnancy, birth, multiple interactions with the baby). This makes it unclear whether you're writing on the day Kione was born or reflecting on a longer period. You've also got a small grammar issue with "me and the doctors thought" when it should be "the doctors and I thought."

**Exemplar:** *Dear Diary, my life changed today when I finally met my new baby sister. Before she was born, the doctors and I thought she would be a boy.*

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**#2: Description of meeting Kione** "So it came as a surprise when my parents brought back the baby they announced it was a girl called Kione. She had startling grey eyes like mum's but she had dark blonde hair like my dad's."

#### Strengths:

- You've included lovely sensory details about Kione's appearance that help readers visualise her
- The comparison to your parents creates a family connection

**Weakness: Run-on sentence structure** → Your first sentence runs two complete thoughts together without proper punctuation ("brought back the baby they announced"). This makes readers stumble whilst reading. You're also repeating "she had" which makes the description sound choppy rather than flowing smoothly.

**Exemplar:** *When my parents brought back the baby, they announced it was a girl called Kione. She had startling grey eyes like Mum's and dark blonde hair like Dad's.*

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**#3: The bottle incident** "Even though she broke my favorite toy, a Lego car which by the way I spent hours making with her bottle, she just stuck her tongue out at me!"

**Strengths:**

- Your personality shines through with the aside "which by the way I spent hours making"
- The detail about the tongue shows Kione's cheeky character

**Weakness: Confusing sentence construction** → The way you've written this makes it sound like you built the Lego car together with the bottle, rather than her breaking it with the bottle. The phrase placement causes readers to misunderstand what actually happened.

**Exemplar:** *Even though she broke my favourite toy—a Lego car which, by the way, I spent hours making—with her bottle, she just stuck her tongue out at me!*

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■ Your diary entry captures a genuine emotional journey from expecting to dislike your baby sister to discovering she's actually fun to be around. The voice feels authentic and child-like, which works well for this format. However, your piece would benefit from clearer organisation of events. Right now, you jump between the first meeting, various incidents with toys and bottles, and general observations about Kione's personality without showing the reader when these things happened or in what order. Think about grouping similar moments together—perhaps all the first impressions in one section, then specific funny incidents in another.

Additionally, you could strengthen the substance by exploring your feelings more deeply. You mention feeling butterflies and being overwhelmed, but what were you thinking during these moments? What made you change your mind about babies being disgusting? Your writing would become more meaningful if you showed the actual moment your opinion shifted rather than just stating "I decided to change my mind." Also, the ending feels a bit rushed—the postscript about siblings being annoying comes suddenly after you've spent the whole entry showing how much you enjoy Kione. Consider developing this contradiction more fully to give readers a complete picture of sibling relationships.

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**Overall Score: 40/50**

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## Section 2:

~~Dear Diary, today my life changed forever.~~ [#1 Dear Diary, my life changed the day I met my new sister.]

It all started when my ~~mum~~ [mum] was pregnant with a baby ~~and me and the doctors~~ [, and the doctors and I] thought it would be a bouncing baby boy. I thought that babies were disgusting and the girl ones were even more boring ~~as that was what~~ [, as this was what] my best friend Freddy said. ~~So it came as a surprise when my parents brought back the baby they announced it was~~ [#2 When my parents brought home the baby and announced she was] a girl called Kione. She[, she] had startling grey eyes like ~~mum's but she had~~ [Mum's and] dark blonde hair like ~~my dad's~~ [Dad's]. I felt butterflies in my stomach as I steeled myself, ready to meet a monstrosity ~~but~~ [, but] then I saw a cute gurgling baby waving its pudgy hand at me. I was instantly overwhelmed by the peaceful sight. I tried lifting her up ~~but~~ [, but] she was heavier than I had expected ~~and~~ [. When] ~~when~~ I nearly dropped her, she bit me on my hand ~~which~~ [, which] made me put her down instantly. After some time experimenting with her, I found out that Kione was a feisty little creature who wasn't scared to throw a few punches if I was too loud. I admit at first I was a little shy ~~but~~ [, but] soon we were playing all around the house. ~~Even though she broke my favorite toy, a Lego car which by the way I spent hours making with her bottle, she~~ [#3 Even though she broke my favourite toy—a Lego car which, by the way, I spent hours making—with her bottle, she] just stuck her tongue out at me! The cheek of it! When Kione grows up, I may have to hide you or she may beat me up. She is amazing at finding things. Once I hid her milk ~~which~~ [, which] she had for breakfast ~~in~~ [, in] the cupboard ~~but then within minutes, she~~ [. Within minutes, she] found it and smacked me with the bottle after she finished it ~~with~~ [, accompanied by] a vicious gurgle. Who knew bottles could be such a deadly weapon when filled or not filled with milk! I used to think that babies were boring ~~but~~ [, but] after I met Kione, I decided to change my mind ~~and I decided~~ [. I decided] that siblings are ~~ok~~ [okay] and can be fun to play with.

~~P.s~~ [P.S.]: But also annoying.

Till next time!