



Inspired by Doreen Cronin's [Diary of a Worm](#) and WritingFix's [Unlikely Diary Keepers lesson](#), this third grade writer created the following diary for a different animal she'd researched. Maddie does a nice job of including a combination of voice skills while also sharing real facts about the panda. What unlikely diary keeper can you create a story for? Where will you find your research?

## Diary of a Panda

by Maddie, third grade writer

January 11:

Everyone at school says I'm gigantic, but I only weigh 300 pounds. Maybe I should eat less bamboo. I was very depressed today.

January 12:

I'm going to have a sleepover with my cousin Red Panda. We are going to have so much fun!

January 13:

We had so much fun! We ate bamboo and climbed trees. My mom made some cookies too.

January 14:

The good thing about being a panda is that in school we can spend 12 hours eating, and our only homework is eating. That's why I have an excellent time at school and I always get an A+.

January 15:

The bad thing about being a panda is there are only 1,100 of us left because people keep on cutting down our bamboo trees.

January 16:

Yesterday I was sleeping in my bamboo tree. I heard something, but I didn't know what it was. Then I knew what that sound was – it was an ax chopping down a bamboo tree. I saw my family and they also heard the noise. They were climbing down their trees and running too. It was so scary!

January 17:

Today I was broken-hearted because we went to look back at our trees to see if they were still there. They weren't there, so we knew it was time to move.

January 18:

New school and friends. Now nobody will call me gigantic. I've already made new friends. We are sliding down the mountain today. It's going to be so great!

January 19:

I had the best dream last night that I had a baby sister the size of a stick of butter just like Mom told me I looked like when I was a baby panda. She said I was so cute!

January 20:

Diary, I have to tell you something very important. Please save pandas and their trees! Please! If you want my family and me to stay here, you have to help us out. Just try, ok? Thank you. Bye!

