

Read with a yellow marker in your hand! This writing assignment asked Maddie to include at least one fact about the topic (seahorses) and at least one humorous idea with every diary entry. As you read with your yellow marker, **highlight the facts** that you think Maddie must have learned when she did research on her topic. Be prepared to talk about Maddie's humor and jokes with the whole class.

Diary of a Seahorse by Maddie S.

September 28th, 2006

Dear Diary,

I was born today, and Mom gave us each a diary. Yah, all 200 of us! I wonder where she got all of those diaries. Oh yeah, my name is Emma, and I was to 10th baby to come out oh yeah! Dad said I'm a vertebrate, but Mom said I was an invertebrate. Which one should I believe?

Sincerely,
Emma

About the Author:

Hi, my name is Maddie. I have one dog and one fish. I decided to do this book because I wanted people to know a life of a seahorse. In the story, Emma goes through stuff I have been through in life, and I am glad to publish this book. Also, I'm 10 years old and I like to play basketball, softball, and soccer. I am an only child and I enjoy it. I hope you enjoy my story.

Dedicated to
my parents and my family

September 29th, 2006

Dear Diary,

Ah! I'm so unhappy because I'm only 1/2 of an inch long and everyone in the sea makes fun of me. Yeah, all of my brothers and sisters are the same height but they don't get made fun of. Oh, I saw a bubble video on seahorses having babies, and it was weird. Also in the movie it showed seahorse making babies and our mom makes the eggs in her but then she lays the eggs in our dad's belly. Gross! Oh yeah, I still don't know what I am.

Sincerely,
Emma

September 30th, 2006

Dear Diary,

One more day of September then it is HALLOWEEN Month! I don't know where we are going to get all of those sailor costumes, but I want to be a princess. But Mom won't let me. Today some bullies called me the walking skeleton just because I'm made of bony plates.

Sincerely,
Emma



Maddie shares her story, *Diary of a Seahorse*, at her local Barnes and Noble bookstore.

October 1st, 2006

Dear Diary,

Can't wait till tomorrow because we're all starting to order our costumes because it will take a while for Mom and Dad to get the costumes on us, and the whale man said we should order them soon because it is going to take 3 weeks for the creatures to make them.

Oh yeah, today while I was taking a swim, I saw a seahorse having babies and the babies gather together after they are born. It was interesting. One other thing: half of my brothers and sisters are short mouth seahorses, and the other half are long mouth seahorses because mom married a short mouth seahorse and she is a long mouth seahorse.

Sincerely,

Emma

October 2nd, 2006

Dear Diary,

Today I was swimming to school and then I got pulled out of the water and this giant put me in a container. He had a white long thing on him, and I heard him say, "This is a Hippocampus and that means it is a horse caterpillar."

I thought, and I said, “No, I’m a cat. No wait, I’m a seahorse.” But he couldn’t hear me.

Then he finally said that I was a Seahorse. You know I was starting to worry because he said all of the weird scientific names. I waited about 2 hours. Then he put me in the warm shallow waters, but the sea was cold, and it felt good to be home.

Sincerely,
Emma

October 3rd, 2006

Dear Diary,

Today is cleaning day! Mom said, “You don’t need me to feed you, just eat the plankton off the walls all day.” You know, Diary, for a second, I thought Mom meant that we weren’t going to eat all day, but I still don’t know if I’m a vertebrate or invertebrate.

Sincerely,
Emma

October 4th, 2006

Dear Diary,

Today I’m scared because my teach horse told us that seahorses can be pets. I’m so scared! I don’t know what to do! Give me tips!

Sincerely,
Scared Emma

October 5th, 2006

Dear Diary,

Today I feel big and bad because my name seahorse means “horse and sea monster” and I told bullies to back off or we will attack together to make a giant thing. I think I’m getting bigger because I ate all of that plankton off the walls of the house.

Sincerely,
BIG Emma

October 6th, 2006

Dear lovely Diary,

Today my older brother is in love. In the sea dictionary, it said seahorses have relationships like human teenagers. I have no clue what a human is, but I think it is that guy who took me out of the water. Oh yeah, I asked Mom and Dad about that question.

Sincerely,

Emma

October 7th, 2006

Dear Diary,

Today, I'm going on a vacation at 9 o' bubbles. Oh yeah, about that question...I'm a vertebrate. Dad is right, but guess what? We are going plankton sucking all weekend. We will be fat when we come home.

"Come on Emma were leaving!" Oh, that's my mom. Got to go! I'm the one they need to make 200. Bye!

Sincerely,

Emma