

# A Full Diary

Level 5

Tegan scribbled down the homework in her diary as a stream of kids packed up their bags and left the classroom.

“Don’t forget to take your English test home, Tegan” said Mrs Clark, standing from her chair and handing it to Tegan.

“Thanks,” replied Tegan. She took the sheet of paper and shoved it into her bag. She would like nothing more than to forget that test.

“Are you looking forward to the holidays?” Mrs Clark asked.

“Ah, yeah. They’ll be great,” Tegan said, managing half a smile. The school holidays hadn’t even been on Tegan’s radar. In truth, Tegan had been feeling overwhelmed of late. Her diary was full; exams to study for and assignments to complete. She had been struggling to keep up with everything and her grades had started to slip.

There was also a lot going on at home. Her mum had started a new job; she was working as a nurse in a hospital in the city. The pay was good, and her mum had been wanting to get out of her old job forever. Tegan was happy for her, but it was shift work. Mum would often start at 5 in the evening, and work through until the early hours of the morning, which meant that Tegan often didn’t see her mum at all in the afternoons.

As the eldest child, Tegan was responsible for dinner. Her mum tried to leave things ready, but she didn’t always have time. There was often a note scrawled on a piece of paper telling Tegan what to make and any other jobs to be done.

After dinner she made sure Peter was getting himself ready

for bed. Then it was time to study. It was getting towards the end of the semester, and that meant exams. Exams meant hours of study, sleepless nights, and sometimes tears.

Her mum had promised things would settle down before long. Although Tegan was doubtful, she would nod and tell her mum not to worry. She didn’t want her mum to have to go back to the café. That wouldn’t be fair. Tegan knew her mum was doing the best she could, and that she wasn’t the only one stressed.



# Questions

A Full Diary – Level 5

1. Who is Peter? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Had Tegan been looking forward to the holidays? How do you know?

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3. What was Tegan's mum's old job? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why do you think Tegan's grades have been dropping?

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5. Do you think Tegan would have shown her mum her English test? Explain.

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6. What can you infer about the kind of person Tegan is?  
Use evidence from the text to back up your opinion.

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7. What advice would you give Tegan to help her deal with her situation?

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# Answers

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1. Who is Peter? How do you know?

Peter is Tegan's brother. She helps him get ready for bed after dinner.

2. Had Tegan been looking forward to the holidays? How do you know?

No, she hadn't realised they were coming up.

3. What was Tegan's mum's old job? She worked in a café.

4. Why do you think Tegan's grades have been dropping?

She was struggling to keep up with everything she had to do at home.

5. Do you think Tegan would have shown her mum her English test? Explain.

Answers may vary. No, because she didn't do well on it and she doesn't want to worry her mum.

6. What can you infer about the kind of person Tegan is?

Use evidence from the text to back up your opinion.

Answers may vary.

Responsible, hard-working, dependable, strong, thoughtful.

Her mum trusts her to take care of her brother and prepare dinner.

She knew she wasn't the only one stressed. Hours of study. Sleepless nights.

7. What advice would you give Tegan to help her deal with her situation?

Answers will vary.