Chatterpack Diaries
Donut Diaries of Dermot Milligan
by Anthony McGowan Illustrated by David Tazzyman

Polly Price’s Totally Secret Diaries by Dee Shulman
Here is a new Chatterpack from Random House, and The Reading Agency, with ideas for Chatterbooks reading group activities, discussion, and further reading, inspired by ‘The Donut Diaries of Dermot Milligan’ by Anthony McGowan and ‘Polly Price’s Totally Secret Diaries’ by Dee Shulman.

Chatterbooks www.readinggroups.org/chatterbooks is a reading group programme for children aged 4 to 14 years. It is coordinated by The Reading Agency and its patron is author Dame Jacqueline Wilson. Chatterbooks groups run in libraries and schools, supporting children’s literacy development by encouraging them to have a really good time reading and talking about books.

The Reading Agency is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more through programmes for adults, young people and Children – including the Summer Reading Challenge, and Chatterbooks. See www.readingagency.org.uk

A Suggested Chatterbooks session plan (times approx)

- Welcome – juice & biscuits (5 mins)
- Getting started - simple warm up activities (10 mins)
- Activities, to get your group talking about the book (35 mins)
- Goodbye, and dates for next meeting (5 mins)

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About this Pack

The Donut Diaries of Dermot Milligan and Polly Price’s Totally Secret Diaries are utterly hilarious reads and perfect for Chatterbooks. The books are easy to read and Dermot and Polly are very likeable characters. Chatterbooks members will love them. The diaries are full of embarrassing parents, awkward moments and wacky characters. Both diaries deal with issues around growing up and create lots of humour out of difficult and sensitive situations.

This pack will help you plan a lively Chatterbooks session themed on the stories. Each series is dealt with individually and has its own set of activities. You can plan a session around one of the series or you can mix and match activities and theme a session around both. Warm up Ideas are short activities aimed to get your group fired up at the start of the session or when you think your session is taking a bit of a lull.

Top Tips

- Have a quick look through the pack and choose material that suits members of your group
- Photocopy sheets to use as handouts
- Be flexible and have fun
- Be positive and encouraging
- Organise activities as individuals, in pairs or as a whole group
- Remember some Chatterbooks groups will whizz through all the activities while some groups will only need one or two activities to keep them busy throughout the session.
- Talk to parents about the books. Both these books will make great family reads.
Diaries ...  Read On Book list

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
Dear Dumb Diary Series by Jim Benton
Deadly Dare Mysteries by Malorie Blackman
Framed by Frank Cottrell Boyce
The Princess Diaries by Meg Cabot
Ryan’s Journal Series by Patrick Carman
Diary of a Wimpy Vampire by Tim Collins
Love that Dog by Sharon Creech
Diary of a Spider by Doreen Cronin
The Dinosaur's Diary by Julia Donaldson
Diary of a Killer Cat by Anne Fine
The Private Notebook of Katie Roberts, Age 11 by Amy Hest
Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series by Jeff Kinney
Dear Greenpeace by Simon James
Kensuke’s Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo
Dork Diaries by Rachel Renee Russell
Diary of a Parent Trainer by Jenny Smith
Buried Alive by Jacqueline Wilson
Double Act by Jacqueline Wilson
Lottie Project by Jacqueline Wilson
Secrets by Jacqueline Wilson
Tracy Beaker by Jacqueline Wilson
The Donut Diaries of Dermot Milligan

About the Books
If you liked Diary of a Wimpy Kid you will love Donut Diaries. They are hilariously funny and insightful with fabulous illustrations by David Tazzyman.

Dermot Milligan's got problems. He's overweight, and hooked on donuts. His mother booked him in to see Dr Morlock, a nutritionist who looks like a Dementor. The diary is Dr Morlock's idea. Not only does Dermot have to write down how many donuts he eats, but also - and this is the really rubbish part - HIS FEELINGS!

The Donut Diaries are full of burping, farting, poo, snot and other disgusting things that boys like to talk about... girls will love the books too.

Titles in the Series
The Donut Diaries of Dermot Milligan
The Donut Diaries of Dermot Milligan: Revenge is Sweet
The Donut Diaries of Dermot Milligan: Escape from Camp Fatso

About the Author
Anthony McGowan was born in Manchester and went to school in Leeds. He once worked as a nightclub bouncer and played in a band called Dandelion Wine. His wife is also an author and a fashion designer. He has two children.

Other Books by Anthony McGowan
The Bare Bum Gang Series
Einstein’s Underpants - And How They Saved the World

For more information about Anthony and his books visit Random House children’s website http://www.randomhouse.co.uk/browse/children
Warm Up Ideas
Start the session talking about diaries. Ask questions like ...  
Does anyone write a diary?  
What things do people write in diaries?  
Who knows any famous diaries? (Anne Frank, Tom Riddle from Harry Potter)  

In 3 minutes write or draw a quick diary entry about what you did today  

Show your group Anthony McGowan on YouTube reading an extract from Donut Diaries to celebrate National Storytelling Week 2012  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qmviXuzaxA (5mins)  

Dermot writes a food diary. People keep all sorts of diaries. Reading diaries record information about books. Travel diaries record information about holidays. As a group in 3 mins write down all the different types of diaries you can think of that people keep ... the more unusual the better!  

Dermot loves donuts. As a group in 3 mins write down all your favourite foods – healthy and unhealthy.  

The Donut Diaries are jam-packed with laugh-out-loud humour. Have some fun. Tell each other jokes. Get jokes books off the library shelves if you get stuck.
Donut Diaries - Book Review

What was the funniest part of the book and why did you find it so funny?

Are there any characters you would like to have as friends?

Are there any characters you would not have as friends?

Does any part of the book make you feel sad?

Does any part of the book make you feel angry?

Does any part of the book make you feel embarrassed?
Donut Diaries
Book Review Characters
What do you like about Dermot?
•
•

What do you not like about Dermot?
•
•

Give two things to describe the FHK (floppy-haired kid)
•
•

Give two things to describe Doc Morlock
•
•
**Donut Diaries Embarrassing Families**
What were the most embarrassing things about Dermot’s family?

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What do you find embarrassing about your family?
Donut Diaries – Write a Diary Entry
Write or Draw about what you did today

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Donut Diaries - Play - Keep, Chuck, Dunno

When Dermot tidies his room he makes three piles of stuff. A pile of things he wants to keep, a pile of things he wants to get rid of and a pile of things he is not sure if he should keep or throw away.

Think about your bedroom. Write or draw a thing you would definitely keep, a thing you should get rid of and a thing you are not sure about. Take turns talking about your items and then let the group decide if you should keep it or throw away on your Chuck pile.

Keep

Chuck

Dunno
Polly Price’s Totally Secret Diary

About the Books
Polly Price’s Totally Secret Diaries are hilarious. The books will have you laughing out loud. They are written like a real diary and are full of wonderful scrapbook style illustrations. Polly’s seriously funny diary records the daily embarrassments caused by her outrageous actress mother – Arabella Diamonte. Polly just wants a quiet ordinary life - unlike her mother who wants to be the centre of attention and always in the spotlight.

Titles in the Series
Reality TV Nightmare
On Stage in America
Mum in Love

About the Author
Dee Shulman has written and/or illustrated about 50 books for children. She started writing stories when she was 6 years old. Some of her favourite children’s books are I am David by Ann Holm, Bumface by Morris Gleitzman and The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne. Her favourite ice-cream is Cherry Garcia. She is married to Chris and has two children Addison and Max.

You can find out more about Polly Price and Dee Shulman by visiting their websites www.pollyprice.co.uk & www.deeshulman.com

Warm Up Ideas
Start the session talking about diaries. Ask questions like ...
Does anyone write a diary?
What do people write in diaries?
Who knows any famous diaries? ( eg Anne Frank, Tom Riddle from Harry Potter)

Look inside the book to see all the different ways Polly writes her name. On a piece of paper write your own signature and then have a go at writing it in lots of different ways.

As a group in 3 minutes write down all the places you would hide a diary – the harder to find the better.

Polly’s mum knows lots of famous people. As a group in 3 mins write down all the famous people you know.

In 3 minutes write or draw a quick diary entry of what you did today
Polly Price’s Diary- Book Review

Who is your favourite character and why?

Which characters do you not like and why?

What is the funniest part of the book?

What is the most embarrassing part of the book?
Polly Price’s Diary – Diaries

Where would you hide a diary so no one could find it?

How would you protect a diary from pestering parents and snooping siblings reading it?

Where would you write a secret diary?

Which 3 book characters’ diaries would you like to read and why?
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  •
  •
Polly Price’s Diary – Family Drawing
Look at Dee Shulman’s fabulous illustrations for inspiration to draw pictures of your family

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Polly Price’s Diaries - Drawing Friends
Get inspirations from Dee Shulman’s illustrations and have a go at drawing your friends

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Polly Price’s Diaries
Write or draw about what you did today

Date: