



Year 4 Writing Sample

Topic: A visit to the past

'I don't want to go and visit grandpa John! He's old and we have nothing in common!' Jack complained to his mother. 'You have to go Jack. You know he likes you to read to him,' Jack's mother replied. Jack sulked in the car all the way to the nursing home, refusing to speak to his mother. 'Jack it's so good to see you,' exclaimed grandpa John when he arrived. Grandpa hadn't noticed Jack shuffling his feet and his hunched shoulders. 'Would you please read this for me today?' Grandpa John handed Jack a tattered old, leather-bound book. On the cover, in worn gold ink, was an image of the rising sun. Jack looked at his grandpa's face with wide eyes, then opened his pa's war diary.

July 11, 1944

Dear diary,

I can still hear the rattle of gun-fire and the whizz of bullets as we clambered over the top of the trench. My best mate Henry was right beside me as usual. The air was thick with smoke and the cries of men. The ground beneath our boots was heavy with red mud.

Suddenly a scream from my right made me turn my head to see Henry lying face first in the mud. In that split second I knew what I had to do. I could not let my best friend die here. I threw my self to the ground and crawled back to find Henry was still alive, shot in the leg. I dragged him back to the trench, copping a bullet to my shoulder in the process. But we made it back together and alive.

And here we both are now, in the medics tent, my mate asleep in the next bed. They are calling me a hero, I just did what any man would do for his best mate.

Jack looked again at his grandpa. He'd known he was a soldier in world war 2 but he'd never asked to tell any stories. Now he felt ashamed of that. The frail old man had once been young like him and he had done more by 17 than Jack ever imagined he would have to do. Jack stood, leaned over and hugged his pa, whispering, 'I'm so proud of you pa. I love you.'

Jack knew he would never take his pa for granted again.

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