

Ben wrote under his bedcovers

Dear Diary,

Oh, what a great day it was. We did many crazy things and I believe it could have been one of the best days of my life. We had exciting activities that were sometimes even dangerous. But I was never afraid; Unlike my friends who did not enjoy everything as I hoped they would. It was a pity that Amira and John were so strange today.

Let me start at the beginning – When we woke up the leaders divided us into different groups. I was together with Amira and Cristiano. I like both of them because yesterday we were also in the same group and we laughed so much. For the first activity, the leader gave us 3 messages written in secret codes and we had to find the solutions. I was the first one to find my solution. After a while Cristiano also had his solution but Amira was very slow. When I asked her if she needed help, she said she didn't like the activity and that solving a code was boring. Then I saw she was holding the paper upside-down and I laughed at her saying that she would never find it like this. She gave me an angry look and threw the paper away. I do not think she is very clever and I wonder if she can read at all and that is very strange as all the other students my age can read and write.

After some time, we finally managed to discover the meaning of all 3 messages. Then we went to the river where we played basketball against other groups. That was fun. We almost won but it's all Amira's fault that we lost. Every time the ball came close to her, she touched it with her feet and made a lot of mistakes. It was like she never played before! That seems weird as we all play basketball after school. Next time I want to be in a different group from Amira.

Lunch was really disgusting. After lunch we had to build a raft to cross the river. That was cool and we had to look for wood and then make all kinds of knots with ropes. Amira and I were looking for nice strong logs but Cristiano was only bringing skinny sticks. I told him that since he is a boy, he should work as hard as me. He said he was dizzy and his back hurt. I think that that was just an excuse to be lazy. Our raft was the best! Even the leader said so! Then the leader counted 1, 2, 3 and we had to jump on the raft and cross the river together. I jumped first but fell in the water, it was very cold! The leader helped me out and we were all laughing. When I told Amira and Cristiano how cold the water was, Cristiano said that he did not want to go on the raft anymore. I think he was afraid of the water. What a loser is Cristiano! First the wood and then the water! When I told him that he should be braver, he ran away crying. I do not think I want to be in the same group with him either. Actually, I will ask the leader to put me in a different group for the next activity as Amira is stupid and Cristiano is weak.

After the activity, I did not speak again to Amira or Cristiano. The leaders are coming, time to sleep – will write again tomorrow my dear diary.

Amira wrote in her diary with the help of a leader

Hello Diary,

You are my first own diary and I am Amira. I hope you will stay with me for a long time. I asked the leader to write this page for me. He says when I get older, I can ready what I did at camp. I like the idea. We are sitting away from the other campers because I don't want anybody to know that the leader is helping me out.

Today was a day full of activities. In the morning I had to be in the same group with Ben and Cristiano. I like Cristiano more than Ben. He always thinks that he knows better than anybody else.

It all started with the messages in secret code that we had to solve. I do not like those things because I still cannot read very well and Ben was shouting to hurry up. I wish I could read better. Then I would read all the books in the whole world. But since my daddy left, I have to stay home and take care of my younger brothers and sisters while mum goes to work. I really want to go to school, but mum says that it's more important to be able to have food than to be able to read a book. I did not want Ben and Cristiano to know that I cannot read so I tried to pretend I was solving the code. But then Ben laughed at me and I was sad and angry at the same time.

It was the same story with basketball. I really wanted our team to win, but I everything I did seemed to be wrong. Everybody knows the game except me. I see the other children always play basketball when they come back from school. But my mother says that if I have time to play, I have time to work. So I have never managed to learn how to play.

After lunch we went to build a boat to cross the river. Here I think I was better than Ben and Cristiano. I know how to make knots and what kind of wood is needed to make a strong boat. But Cristiano acted so strange. He was very very afraid when Ben told us how cold the water was.

I hope that tomorrow we are in the same group. I want to prove to them that I can do many things! And I really like the leaders at the camp.

Bye diary, until tomorrow.

Cristiano has been writing in his diary for many years and his diary is really thick.

My dearest diary,

Again, I am writing to tell you how sad and disappointed I am. In the morning we did activities that I liked. The secret code is easy for me as I do them all the time at home. And in basketball I play defence like always.

The lunch was great!! Probably the best I have ever eaten. I eat a lot here, unlike at home where I always have to wait till my younger brothers and sisters have eaten. Not here! I can even go back for seconds. I like that! I think I am even putting on weight. When I go back home, I won't be the 'skin-and-bones boy' anymore.

But in the afternoon, it was terrible. We had to get very heavy wood and then go in very cold water. I don't like that because I would be ill for sure and I don't want that anymore. My father has told me that the day he finds a new job, he will take me to the hospital and make me healthy again. He says that then I will be able to do all the activities I want and not have to stay in bed all the time. I wish my father could have a new job tomorrow. Then I would get healthy again fast. I don't want to tell this to the other children at camp because they will know that we don't have money at home and they will tease me about it.

Dear diary, when will I be healthy again? I want to be like the other children. I want to play and run and jump. I hope it happens soon as I am afraid it may never happen.

Sleep well my dearest diary I will tell you more tomorrow. Only you know all my secrets!