Once - Morris Gleitzman

The novel 'Once' by Morris Gleitzman is set in Poland during World War II. The story takes place in different locations, including an orphanage, a cellar and a train carriage.

In the beginning of the book, the main character, Felix, lives in an orphanage. The orphanage is a bleak place, with few comforts and no freedom for the children who live there.

Mother Minka changes Felix's name to Felek to protect him from the Nazi soldiers who come to the orphanage.

When Felix leaves the orphanage he experiences the full horrors of the war. He witnesses the brutality of the Nazi soldiers and sees the devastation of the Jewish ghetto. For example, when Felix first arrives in the city, he sees people being taken away by soldiers.

Throughout the novel, the setting is described in vivid detail, including the sounds, smells, and sights of war-torn Poland. These descriptions help to create a sense of the setting and make the reader feel as though they are experiencing the events alongside Felix.

The children hide in a cellar with Barney from the Nazi soldiers. This shows the World War Two setting where they must hide for their safety, otherwise they will be sent to a death camp or killed immediately. The curfew shows the control they were under and how they had to sneak around and hide in order to stay alive.

#### **Task**

- Re-read your summary from chapter 13 (pg. 111)
- Write a diary entry from Felix's perspective on the events of that chapter

- Use the correct format and style
  - Date on the top right hand corner
  - Greeting (Dear ...)
  - > Skip lines between paragraphs
  - Sign off (I'll write again soon)
  - Signature (First name or nickname only)
  - Personal (I, me, my)
  - Emotions and feelings
  - Past tense