Front-End UI/UX Mini Project

My Personal Diary

Submitted by:

1. Ryan Joseph Rejoy
2462139
joseph.ryan@btech.christuniversity.in

2. Aanon Thomas
2462001
aanon.thomas@btech.christuniversity.in

3. Vinayak Vivek
2462169
vinayak.vivek@btech.christuniversity.in

Course: UI/UX Design Fundamentals

Instructor Name: Mr. Dhiraj

Institution: Christ (Deemed to be University)

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Abstract

This project is a responsive and visually appealing personal diary website titled 'My Personal Diary'. The website provides users with a digital journaling space featuring a notebook-inspired design, mood tracking, and an archive for past entries. Built entirely with HTML and CSS, the site ensures accessibility, responsive layouts, and aesthetic appeal without relying on JavaScript. The design includes a print-friendly mode, dark theme toggle, and decorative SVG elements such as pins and tape for a realistic diary look. The goal was to create an engaging platform for personal journaling that works seamlessly across devices.

Objectives

- Design a notebook-inspired, user-friendly interface.
- Develop a fully responsive website using only HTML and CSS.
- Organize content with semantic HTML5 for accessibility.
- Enhance visual appeal with CSS styling, themes, and decorative graphics.
- Provide additional usability features such as mood tracking and archives.

Scope of the Project

The project focuses exclusively on front-end design using HTML and CSS. It consists of four main pages: Home, Archive, About, and Contact. The design is optimized for desktop, tablet, and mobile devices. The website does not incorporate backend or JavaScript functionality, ensuring simplicity and high performance.

Tools and Technology Used

Tool/Technology	Purpose
HTML5	Page structure and semantic markup
CSS3	Styling, layout, responsiveness, and themes
VS Code	Code editor for development
Chrome DevTools	Testing and layout debugging
Google Fonts	Typography customization
SVG Graphics	Scalable decorative icons and visuals

HTML Structure Overview

The website uses semantic HTML5 tags such as <header>, <nav>, <main>, <section>, and <footer>. The homepage includes a hero section, mood tracker, and latest entries preview. The archive page lists past diary entries in chronological order. The about page explains the purpose of the site, while the contact page contains a feedback form layout.

CSS Styling Strategy

All styles are defined in external CSS files, organized into sections for typography, layout, components, and media queries. The design uses CSS Grid and Flexbox for layout structure, CSS variables for theme customization, and media queries for responsiveness. Hover effects, background images, and decorative SVGs add to the notebook-inspired visual theme. A separate print stylesheet ensures that diary entries can be printed cleanly.

Key Features

Feature	Description
Responsive Layout	Adapts to various screen sizes using CSS Grid and Flexbox.

Mood Tracker	Interactive emoji-based mood selection styled with CSS.
Archive	Chronological listing of diary entries with easy navigation.
Dark Mode	CSS-only dark theme toggle.
Print-Friendly Design	Separate print stylesheet for clean printing.

Challenges Faced and Solutions

Challenge	Solution
Maintaining visual consistency	Used CSS variables and reusable classes.
Mobile layout issues	Implemented media queries to adjust components.
Aligning decorative elements	Used relative positioning and tested across screen sizes.

Outcome

The 'My Personal Diary' project successfully demonstrates the creation of a thematic, responsive website using only HTML and CSS. It combines functional features such as a mood tracker with aesthetic elements for a pleasant user experience.

Future Enhancements

- Integrate backend functionality to store and retrieve diary entries.
- Add JavaScript-based interactivity for dynamic updates.
- Include search and filter functions for the archive.
- Implement customizable themes for personalization.

Conclusion

This project enhanced our practical skills in HTML and CSS, focusing on responsive design, thematic styling, and usability. The diary website serves as an example of how creative design and clean code can produce a functional, accessible platform without advanced programming languages.

References

L&T LMS: https://learn.lntedutech.com/Landing/MyCourse

https://www.w3schools.com/css/

https://www.w3schools.com/html/

Sample Code

```html
  2    <html lang="en">
 13    <body>
 16      <div class="site" data-theme="light">
 32        <main class="container">
 33          <section class="hero paper">
 34            <img src="images/tape.svg" class="tape tape--left" alt="" aria-hidden="true">
 35            <img src="images/tape.svg" class="tape tape--right" alt="" aria-hidden="true">
 36            <h2>hey, it's your quiet corner on the web 👍</h2>
 37            <p>Capture thoughts, track moods, and keep memories—styled like a real notebook with stickers
 38            <a class="btn btn-primary" href="#new-entry">Write a new entry</a>
 39          </section>
 40
 41          <!-- Mood Tracker -->
 42          <section class="mood paper">
 43            <h3 class="section-title">Mood Tracker</h3>
 44            <ul class="mood-grid" role="list">
 45              <li data-mood="happy" title="Happy">😊</li>
 46              <li data-mood="calm" title="Calm">😌</li>
 47              <li data-mood="excited" title="Excited">🤩</li>
 48              <li data-mood="tired" title="Tired">😩</li>
 49              <li data-mood="sad" title="Sad">😞</li>
 50              <li data-mood="angry" title="Angry">😡</li>
 51              <li data-mood="grateful" title="Grateful">🙏</li>
 52              <li data-mood="productive" title="Productive">💪</li>
 53            </ul>
 54            <p class="hint">This is a static demo—clicks won't be saved, but you can print this page to k
 55          </section>
 56
```

```html
  1   <!DOCTYPE html>
  2   <html lang="en">
  3   <head>
  4     <meta charset="UTF-8" />
  5     <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1" />
  6     <title>My Personal Diary — Home</title>
  7     <meta name="description" content="A cozy, notebook-style personal diary with mood tracker, archiv
  8     <link rel="icon" href="images/favicon.svg" type="image/svg+xml">
  9     <link href="https://fonts.googleapis.com/css2?family=Shantell+Sans:wght@400;700&family=Inter:wght
 10     <link rel="stylesheet" href="css/style.css" />
 11     <link rel="stylesheet" href="css/print.css" media="print" />
 12   </head>
 13   <body>
 14     <!-- CSS-only Dark Mode Toggle -->
 15     <input type="checkbox" id="darkToggle" class="visually-hidden">
 16     <div class="site" data-theme="light">
 17       <header class="header">
 18         <label class="dark-toggle" for="darkToggle" title="Toggle Night Mode">
 19           <span class="icon-sun" aria-hidden="true"></span>
 20           <span class="icon-moon" aria-hidden="true"></span>
 21           <span class="sr">Toggle theme</span>
 22         </label>
 23         <h1 class="logo">My Personal Diary</h1>
 24         <nav class="nav">
 25           <a href="index.html" aria-current="page">Home</a>
 26           <a href="archive.html">Archive</a>
 27           <a href="about.html">About</a>
 28           <a href="contact.html">Contact</a>
 29         </nav>
```

```
my-personal-diary > <> index.html > ...
  2   <html lang="en">
 13   <body>
 16     <div class="site" data-theme="light">
 32       <main class="container">
 57         <!-- Featured Entries -->
 58         <section class="entries">
 59           <h3 class="section-title">Recent Entries</h3>
 60           <article class="entry card paper" data-tags="life,study" data-mood="calm">
 61             <img src="images/pin.svg" class="pin" alt="" aria-hidden="true">
 62             <header>
 63               <time datetime="2025-08-10" class="date">10 Aug 2025</time>
 64               <h4>Offline afternoons and lemon tea</h4>
 65             </header>
 66             <p>Today I stayed away from socials and finished two chapters. Rewarded myself with a perfe
 67             <footer class="entry-footer">
 68               <span class="tag">#study</span><span class="tag">#slowday</span>
 69               <a class="readmore" href="archive.html#2025-08-10">Open in Archive →</a>
 70             </footer>
 71           </article>
 72
 73           <article class="entry card paper" data-tags="friends,weekend" data-mood="excited">
 74             <img src="images/pin.svg" class="pin" alt="" aria-hidden="true">
 75             <header>
 76               <time datetime="2025-08-05" class="date">05 Aug 2025</time>
 77               <h4>Rainy bus rides & playlists</h4>
 78             </header>
 79             <p>Shared headphones, foggy windows, and that one chorus stuck in my head. Reminder to make
 80             <footer class="entry-footer">
 81               <span class="tag">#music</span><span class="tag">#monsoon</span>
110                 <option>Happy</option><option>Calm</option><option>Excited</option>
111                 <option>Tired</option><option>Sad</option><option>Angry</option>
112                 <option>Grateful</option><option>Productive</option>
113               </select>
114             </label>
115           </div>
116           <label>Title <input type="text" placeholder="Give your entry a title…" required></label>
117           <label>Entry
118             <textarea rows="6" placeholder="Write freely… This is a static mockup for HTML/CSS practi
119           </label>
120           <div class="actions">
121             <button class="btn">Save (mock)</button>
122             <a class="btn btn-ghost" href="archive.html">Go to Archive</a>
123           </div>
124         </form>
125       </div>
126     </main>
127
128     <footer class="footer paper">
129       <p>© <span id="year">2025</span> My Personal Diary. All scribbles reserved.</p>
130       <div class="social">
131         <a href="#" aria-label="Instagram">IG</a>
132         <a href="#" aria-label="Twitter/X">X</a>
133         <a href="#" aria-label="Mail">Mail</a>
```

```
34        </div>
35      </footer>
36    </div>
37
38    <!-- CSS-only theme binding (checkbox hack) -->
39    <style>
40      /* Bridge the checkbox state to the wrapper using the sibling selector */
41      #darkToggle:checked + .site { --theme: dark; }
42    </style>
43  </body>
44  </html>
45
```

Screenshots

Screenshot 1 — Archive page

C:/Users/91903/Downloads/my-personal-diary/my-personal-diary/archive.html

Archive

Home | Archive | About | Contact

Month
August 2025

Mood
All

Tag
e.g., study, music

These are visual filters only (no JavaScript). Use the search box of your browser to find keywords quickly (Ctrl/Cmd+F).

10 Aug 2025 **Offline afternoons and lemon tea**

Stayed offline and finished two chapters. Lemon tea tasted like victory.

#study   #slowday

05 Aug 2025 **Rainy bus rides & playlists**

Foggy windows, shared songs. The city felt like a music video.

Screenshot 2 — About page

C:/Users/91903/Downloads/my-personal-diary/my-personal-diary/about.html

About

Home | Archive | About | Contact

What is this?

My Personal Diary is a static, HTML/CSS-only website designed to look like a cozy notebook—perfect for a design project or portfolio demo.

- Notebook aesthetic with paper textures, tape, and pins.
- CSS-only dark mode toggle.
- Mood tracker and printable pages.
- Accessible typography and semantic HTML5.

Tech Stack

Just HTML5 and CSS3. No JavaScript required.

Responsive   Semantic   Printable

Screenshot 3 — Contact page

C:/Users/91903/Downloads/my-personal-diary/my-personal-diary/contact.html

Contact

Home | Archive | About | Contact

Say hello 👋

Send a note or feedback (non-functional demo form):

Name
Your name

Email
you@example.com

Please fill out this field.

Subject
What's this about?

Message
Type away...