

Saturday November 4th, 1922

We started work early this morning: avoiding the hottest hours of the day when **toiling** hard under the African heat is essential. Around mid-morning we uncovered the first traces of the entrance to a tomb. Having searched most of the Valley of the Kings, it was surprising to make this find beneath the huts. It did not take us too long to reveal that what we were looking at was the start of a steep **excavation**. Like an impatient child, I set to work removing the rubble and earth that covered the way to what I believe would lead to the tomb.

Sunday November 5th, 1922

It was our **sheer** determination and belief that this was the site that kept us going today, and after hours of labour we managed to excavate the higher level of a staircase. I had originally **conjectured** that it was an opening to a **labyrinth** leading to a tomb, and it certainly proved to be so.

As the day drew closer to an end, we had cleared all the way down to a large, sealed doorway. Unlike most other tombs that had been unearthed, this one was – from an initial inspection – fully intact. With closer **scrutiny**, I noticed that the only **decipherable** impressions of the seals were those symbolising a king, but as to whom it belonged to, I had not yet been able to establish.

Without further hesitation, but with **vigilant delicacy**, I made a hole in the uppermost part of the sealed door so as to see what was hidden on the other side. With the **aid** of a torch I was able to shine a revealing light inside. You would think that seeing a passage-way filled to the top with rubble would fill my heart with **weariness**, knowing how much effort would have to go in to removing it, but in fact it lifted my spirits as it confirmed for me the **notion** that this was an undisturbed tomb, and potentially the tomb I have been searching for, for years; the tomb of Tutankhamun.

Before I could go ahead any further, I had to make sure that details of this find had reached Lord Carnarvon. So, as if wrapping up a gift for one's birthday, I refilled the excavation and returned home and cabled to Lord Carnarvon, in England, the following message:-

"Amazing discovery in Valley a tomb with seals intact covered up for your arrival"

Friday November 24th, 1922

After an **agonising** wait, like a child waiting for Christmas, I was finally able to continue with the excavation. With the sealed door now revealed in its **entirety**, I was able to **discern** various seal impressions bearing the **cartouche** of Tutankhamun.

Sadly though, the discovery of two **distinct** re-openings and **successive** re-closings, along with the masses of broken **potsherds** and boxes bearing the names of Akhenaten, Smenkh-Ka-Ra and Tutankhamun, and a scarab of Tehutimes III, as well as a fragment bearing the cartouche of Amenhetep III, led us to believe that we were about to open a royal **cache**, but not one necessarily belonging to the Pharaoh we sought.

Saturday November 25th, 1922

The first doorway was opened today. After a back-breaking, stamina-testing excavation we managed to clear the passage-way and reveal a further passage that travelled below the level that we were currently on.

During the clearance though, we found a **myriad** of **artefacts** that pointed towards the possibility that this was a disturbed burial. This was not a comforting find, as in my mind I was under no **illusions**, this was looking desperately more and more like **plundering**.

Sunday November 26th, 1922

When, after much clearance, we came upon a second sealed doorway, I recognised that its location and features mirrored almost exactly the doorway to the tomb where the cache of Akhenaten was discovered. So without further delay, we cleared the passage of any **remnants** of our disturbance so that the sealed door could be seen clearly. My mind could not process what was happening. Could there be another passage on the other side? Or indeed a chamber? After **procuring** some candles in order to test for the foul gases that are common in these excavations, I widened the gap and looked in.

My eyes had to adjust and so I was unable to comment straight away, which of course added to the suspense and to Lord Carnarvon's anxiety. But as the flame flickered, so did my heart as there before me was revealed an incredible **medley** of extraordinary and beautiful objects.

Unable to bear it any longer, Lord Carnarvon called out to see if I could see anything. Replying that I could, I started to open the hole so that he too could see inside. We were **dumb-struck**; astonished as we looked on the most marvellous collection of treasures, amongst which were: effigies of a king, **gilded** couches, **ornamental** caskets, flowers, **alabaster** vases and a golden throne. We were unclear as to whether we had found a tomb or **merely** a cache. However, the two **sentinel** statues, stood respectfully either side of a sealed doorway, reignited our suspicions. The numerous cartouches with the name of Tutankhamun on them left little doubt that we were at the resting place of the Pharaoh.

Monday November 27th, 1922

As we searched through the chamber, carefully sifting through ancient artefacts, it became clear that there was no indication of a mummy or mummies. Considering they were the only reason for making such a cache, it became evident to us that beyond the door, between the sentinel statues, was the actual tomb of Tutankhamun. To think that he was most likely lying there, magnificently, was too much to **comprehend**. But comprehend it we had to and so we continued beyond the door.

It soon became **startlingly** clear to us that this place was Pharaoh's tomb. It was a sight that **surpassed** all dreams. We have found Tutankhamun!

Questions:

1. Why did Howard Carter have to wait 19 days before being able to fully excavate the area?
2. Why did the author use the description: 'as if wrapping a gift for one's birthday,' to describe covering up the excavation? Justify your answer with evidence from the text.
3. What is different about the sentence structure and grammar in the last line of the diary entry dated Sunday 5th November, compared to the rest of the text? And why do you think this is?
4. Find and copy 3 examples of words or groups of words that indicate the hard work needed to excavate an area?
5. What was it that Howard Carter discovered on Saturday 25th November that was unsettling? Justify your answer with evidence.
6. What do the author mean by the line: 'My mind could not process what was happening' in the diary entry from Sunday 26th November?
7. Why did they use candles when they had electric torchlights?
8. What did the author mean by the description: 'as the flame flickered so did my heart'?
9. How was Lord Carnarvon feeling during the excavation?
10. Look at the diary entry Sunday November 26th, what evidence was there for Howard Carter that they had found a tomb?
11. Find a phrase which particularly interests you and explain why you chose it.

Vocab 1-

Write the meaning of each of these words.

1. Sufficient
2. Excavation
3. Toiling
4. Sheer
5. Conjectured
6. Labyrinth
7. Scrutiny
8. Decipherable
9. Vigilant
10. Delicacy
11. Aid
12. Weariness

Vocab 2 -

Task A

Circle the correct definition for each of the words below.

sheer

a steep slope	a slight slope	a long slope
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aid

something helpful	something interesting	something exciting
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sufficient

not quite enough	more than necessary	just the right amount
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toiling

playing	resting	working
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successive

one after the other	one before the other	one on its own
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Task B

Unscramble the following words and write them on the lines below.

neneltis _____

cceah _____

meantalonr _____

feacttsra _____

aeoucchtr _____

dryiam _____