Snowboarding Diary



As told by Jane Taylor to
June Stratford and Jane Morrison

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Day 1

Jasmine arrives

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Dear Diary

Today Mum and I picked up my friend Jasmine from the airport. I met Jasmine when my family went to Jamaica for a holiday, and we've been writing to each other ever since. Now Jasmine has come to spend some time with us. Mum and Dad are taking us snowboarding in the mountains.

Jasmine and I don't know how to snowboard, but we are both good skateboarders. Some of my friends at school say that snowboarding is just like skateboarding. I hope it is.



It's great to see Jasmine again!



Jasmine has never seen snow before. In Jamaica, it is hot for most of the year. Jasmine is curious to see snow and I wonder what she'll think of it.

Jasmine and I were very excited to see each other at the airport, and we couldn't stop talking all the way home in the car.



We checked out snowboards in a magazine. They are the same shape as skateboards but thinner, and of course they don't have any wheels. Maybe we will be good at snowboarding too!



When we got home from the airport, we went to the park to practise our skateboarding. Jasmine is fantastic! She has great balance, and I think she'll learn how to snowboard very easily.

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Day 2

Gearing up to go!



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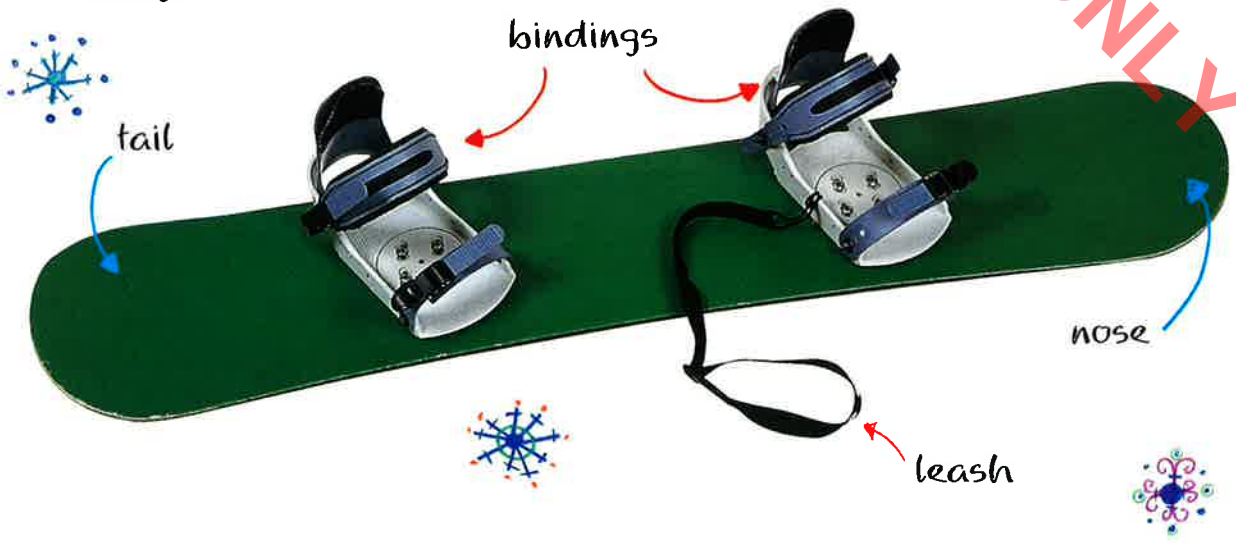
This morning, we hired our snowboarding gear. We had great fun choosing the clothes, which are waterproof and not too tight. The jackets and pants have extra padding on the elbows, knees and bottom because snowboarders often fall over — and we expect to do a lot of that!

We also hired helmets to protect our heads, and ski gloves to keep our hands warm. We chose colourful goggles, too. You need a lot of gear for this sport.



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Our boots lace up around the ankle for support, and our snowboards are fitted with bindings that hold the boots tightly in place. We had to decide which foot was most comfortable on the front of the snowboard. I chose the left. A leash attaches the board to your leg, so if your feet come out of the bindings, the snowboard won't slide away.



All snowboards are made from flexible wood. The wood bends and makes snowboarding easier when jumping and turning. The nose and tail of the snowboards are turned up slightly. This is so the boards won't dig into the snow and get stuck.

This afternoon, after a few hours travelling, we reached the winding road up to the mountains. Snow began to fall, and Dad had to stop the car and fit snow-chains onto the wheels. Snow-chains stop cars from sliding on icy roads.

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We finally got to the lodge where we are staying. Jasmine and I jumped out of the car so that we could feel the snow. Jasmine couldn't believe how white everything looked and how cold and hard the snow felt.





I made a snowball and threw it at Jasmine. She laughed and threw one back. I ducked, but she still got me!

A snowboarding competition for beginners is being held while we are at the snow. Jasmine and I want to go in it. I only hope I can snowboard by then!

Beginners Snowboard Competition

Saturday 5pm

Come and show off what you've learned in your snowboarding lessons!