**Questions to guide reading of Alan Bennett’s Diary**

What features does the text to indicate that it is following the **genre conventions** of a **diary**?

Alternatively, how do you think Bennett **modifies** some usual diary features in order to appeal to, and present a text appropriate to, a wide, external audience?

In terms of audience, although the *Diaries* have appeared in his very popular collections of writings in book form, their first appearance was in a magazine called *The* *London Review of Books* which has a much smaller audience of people general very knowledgeable about culture and with a more academic focus. How are some of the features of the text aimed at that audience?

What evidence is there that Bennett is a professional writer who uses literary features like metaphor and imagery very effectively?

Bennett is an essentially comic writer who draws upon his Northern origins (he grew up in Leeds), often incorporating the patterns of speech used by people in the north and using this to inject into his writing a more informal, colloquial and humorous quality.