

Carbon Diaries

Weds, Jan 14th

I woke up this morning and it was freezing, freezing cold. I'm only allowed heat on in my room between 7 and 8. I went and looked at the Smart Meter in the hall. It's this thing that tells you everything that's going on with energy in the house. Even for our one hour of heat Dad's locked the bedroom temp at 15°C. What a joke – it's not even enough to melt the frost on the windows. [...]

Fri, Jan 16th

I've been given an essay to write by next Friday for AS Critical Thinking¹: Write an informal personal review of an aspect of your home-life environment in the light of the new carbon rationing system. [...]

Tues, Jan 20th

We had a powercut² in the night. The house is so cold now, it feels like 200 years of evil chill³ creeping into my bones. Reminds me of the Great Storm. Cuts give me the creeps⁴ – you know when you go to switch the light on and it's dead? It was so freezing I went shopping to Waitrose with Mum and Dad just to keep my blood moving. [...]

Thurs, Jan 22nd

Italy has only just got its power back. They've found out the cause of the blackout – a tree fell on a live cable on the Swiss border. A bloody plant wiped out a whole country for 60 hours. Loads of old people have died. So strange. I never knew that cold could kill people like that. France is under deep snow now, and it's coming our way.

Saci Lloyd (2009) *The Carbon Diaries 2015*.

¹ A school subject

² When the electricity supply stops

³ Extreme cold

⁴ Give the creeps : terrify