

WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "On the last day of summer...couldn't understand" Strengths:

- Strong opening that creates intrigue with the mysterious jar discovery
- Effective scene-setting with specific timing detail

Weakness: Limited sensory details → Your writing would benefit from describing the beach environment and jar's appearance. The phrase "found a glass jar" lacks depth. Adding sensory elements would help readers picture the scene better.

Exemplar: *On the last scorching day of summer, Lucas's feet sank into the warm sand as he spotted a weathered glass jar, its surface clouded with age, half-buried beneath the golden grains.*

#2: "Inside, was a mysterious stone...winter" Strengths:

- Creative personification of the stone having "life"
- Effective contrast between summer and winter

Weakness: Unclear sequence → Your transition from discovering the stone to feeling winter's presence happens too quickly. The phrase "it felt as if summer was grasped away" needs more build-up to make this shift feel natural.

Exemplar: *The stone pulsed with an ancient energy, and as Lucas lifted it from its paper wrapping, a cold wind swept across the beach. The warmth of summer seemed to fade with each passing moment, replaced by winter's icy grip.*

#3: "Shadowy figures...answer or not" Strengths:

- Creates suspense through mysterious characters
- Good use of internal conflict

Weakness: Underdeveloped confrontation → Your encounter with the shadowy figures feels rushed. The phrase "approached him slowly, offering increasing bargains" needs more details about these bargains and Lucas's emotional response.

Exemplar: *Dark figures emerged from the shadows, their whispered offers growing more tempting with each step. "Name your price," one hissed, while Lucas clutched the stone tighter, his heart racing with indecision.*

■ Your story has a fascinating magical element that draws readers in. To make it stronger, focus on developing the connection between Lucas and the stone. Show us why this stone is special through his reactions and feelings. Add more details about what he sees inside the stone and how it affects him personally.

Actionable task: Rewrite the paragraph about Lucas looking into the stone, focusing on specific visions he sees and how they make him feel.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

#1 On the last day of summer, Lucas found a glass jar buried in the sand, and inside was a message written in a language he couldn't understand.

#2 ~~Desperate to see what treasures it concealed. His~~ [Desperate to see what treasures it concealed, his] bony fingers frantically grasped at the ground until he found a gravelly rock the size of his fist. A thin grin stretched across his face as his pupils widened with curiosity. He brought the rock down with such tremulous force that fragments of glass shattered in every direction, sending shards into trees and grass. Inside, was a mysterious stone enveloped in an ancient piece of paper. The stone palpitated with the life of the beach, and as he removed it from the paper – it felt as if summer was grasped away by the greedy hands of winter.

#3 As he stared deep inside of it, his fleshless fingers squeezing it with surprising power, he could see every aspect of the beach; from the ebbing tide to a crab. On the way home, he felt an eerie energy tickling at his neck – like static electricity toying with your hair. Shadowy figures, cloaked in an enigmatic darkness, approached him slowly, offering increasing bargains for the stone. The piece of paper in which he had found it fluttered ~~the~~ [in the] breeze, as the stranger's eyes gleamed with a burning desire. ~~What could of~~ [What could have] possibly been in that rock that they would want so much? Lucas wondered, uncertain if he wanted the answer or not.

WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "Every midnight, the stars above the village flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice. It wasn't something that normal people had any regard for, many were too occupied with work or business they had to attend to."

Strengths:

- Strong opening hook that immediately draws readers in
- Establishes the unique perspective of the main character

Weaknesses: Missing context → Your opening would benefit from setting up why Liam is awake at midnight. "Many were too occupied with work or business" feels disconnected without showing Liam's situation first.

Your piece could begin: "While the village slept soundly each night, Liam lay awake in his bed, eyes fixed on the midnight sky. The stars above flickered off for exactly one minute, but only he seemed to notice."

#2: "A night with no stars, even if it was just for a minute, is tenfold the beauty of a cloudless day. A phenomenon waiting to be explained, a mystery right in front of their eyes."

Strengths:

- Beautiful metaphorical language
- Creates intrigue through mystery

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped comparison → Your comparison between night and day needs more detail to help readers understand why a starless night holds such beauty for Liam.

You could expand this to: "A night with no stars held a haunting beauty that outshone even the brightest day. This mysterious phenomenon called to Liam, begging to be understood, whilst the rest of the village remained oblivious to the wonder above their heads."

#3: "The stars glimmered with an eerie hint of red, before fading deep into the night. Suddenly, a man approached Liam. He put his hand on his shoulder, 'You see that too, don't you?'"

Strengths:

- Effective build-up of tension
- Strong dialogue that creates intrigue

Weaknesses: Rushed ending → Your ending moves too quickly from the red stars to the man's appearance without building proper suspense.

Consider: *"The stars took on an unsettling crimson glow, unlike anything Liam had seen before. Footsteps crunched in the darkness behind him. A weathered hand gripped his shoulder as a whispered voice asked, 'You see that too, don't you?'"*

■ Your writing shows promise in creating an intriguing atmosphere, but needs more depth in character development. Try showing us more of Liam's daily life and why he alone stays awake to watch this phenomenon. You could add more sensory details about the village at night and Liam's emotional connection to the stars. Make your piece longer by exploring Liam's feelings of isolation before introducing the mysterious man.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 Every midnight, the stars above the village flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice. ~~It wasn't something that normal people had any regard for, many were too occupied with work or business they had to attend to.~~ [Most villagers paid no attention, too consumed by their daily work and responsibilities.]

#2 But Liam was different. It was deeply intriguing – how the night would breathe with you, how its heart would pace at the strike of midnight. At the exact time in the night, the stars would flicker off; leaving an inky void where they once were, as if someone flicked off the light switch for the sky. ~~A night with no stars, even if it was just for a minute, is tenfold the beauty of a cloudless day.~~ [A night without stars, even for just a minute, held beauty ten times greater than any cloudless day.] A phenomenon waiting to be explained, a mystery right in front of their eyes.

Liam vowed to discover the reason as his eyes fixated on a dreamy night, the tire and fatigue of sleep drifting out of his eyes as he watched in obsession. ~~It can't just be me,~~ [It couldn't just be me] Liam thought. As the rest of the village slept or went about with late night work, Liam would sneak out of bed to watch the 'stars flicker off'. He was always mocked because of that. As if his sightings were merely a pipe dream.

#3 But tonight was different, the night told him so. The stars glimmered with an eerie hint of red, before fading deep into the night. Suddenly, a man approached Liam. He put his hand on his shoulder, 'You see that too, don't you?'