

WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "The air lingered with the aroma of chips as people milled around, engrossed in their conversation. The fiery sun scorched down like an irate orb in the sky, casting shimmering diamonds amongst the tidal waves."

Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details create an immersive beach atmosphere
- Creative metaphor comparing sunlight to diamonds on waves

Weakness: Limited scene development → Your opening focuses heavily on describing the environment but doesn't establish why this moment matters to the story. The descriptions of chips and conversations don't connect to Lucas's discovery.

Exemplar: *The salty air mingled with the aroma of chips as Lucas watched beachgoers chatting nearby, never suspecting the mysterious object that would change everything.*

#2: "Then Lucas noticed something unusual sticking out from a clump sand-a small tin jar. That had washed ashore. Uncorking the cork, with his bony wrists he saw the enigmatic pattern."

Strengths:

- Introduces the key plot element naturally through Lucas's discovery
- Creates curiosity about the mysterious jar

Weakness: Choppy flow → Your sentences are disconnected, making the discovery feel less exciting. "That had washed ashore" stands alone when it should flow with the previous sentence. The description of Lucas opening the jar is unclear.

Exemplar: *Lucas spotted something peculiar jutting from a clump of sand - a small tin jar that had washed ashore. His hands trembled as he uncorked it, revealing an enigmatic pattern inside.*

#3: "This is a Nazi Code. It is a map, showing the way in- or out, of the Echoes of the Reich!" commented Mrs Smith, patting Lucas's shoulder with her hands."

Strengths:

- Builds intrigue through Mrs Smith's revelation
- Creates tension through historical connection

Weakness: Rushed revelation → Your dialogue reveals too much information at once without building proper suspense. Mrs Smith's casual reaction to finding a Nazi code doesn't match the seriousness of the discovery.

Exemplar: *Mrs Smith's hands shook as she examined the pattern. "This isn't just any code," she whispered, her face growing pale. "This appears to be connected to... the Reich."*

■ Your story has an exciting premise about discovering a mysterious Nazi code, but needs stronger development of the characters' emotional responses. The transition between finding the jar and rushing to Mrs Smith's house happens too quickly. Try spending more time showing Lucas's thoughts and feelings about his discovery. You could also make Mrs Smith's reaction more dramatic to match the serious nature of finding a Nazi artifact.

Actionable task: Rewrite the scene where Lucas discovers the jar, focusing on his emotional reaction and internal thoughts before he decides to take it to Mrs Smith.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 The air lingered with the aroma of chips as people milled around, engrossed in their conversation. The fiery sun scorched down like an irate orb in the sky, casting shimmering diamonds amongst the tidal waves.

#2 ~~Then Lucas noticed something unusual sticking out from a clump sand a small tin jar. That had washed ashore.~~ [Lucas noticed something unusual sticking out from a clump of sand - a small tin jar that had washed ashore.] ~~Uncorking the cork, with his bony wrists~~ [with trembling hands] he saw the enigmatic pattern. ~~It had convoluting stripes, smudges and squiggles.~~ [The pattern consisted of intricate stripes, smudges and squiggles.]

Racing back home, to Mrs Smith his cryptography teacher. ~~Her house was covered with white bricks, and a vine draped over the chimney as if concealing a secret.~~ [Her white-brick house stood before him, vines draped over the chimney as if concealing a secret.] ~~Filled to the brim was ripe strawberries, pumpkins and tomatoes twirling around their stem like a graceful ballerina.~~ [The garden overflowed with ripe strawberries, pumpkins and tomatoes, their stems twirling like graceful ballerinas.]

#3 ~~"This is a Nazi Code. It is a map, showing the way in- or out, of the Echoes of the Reich!"~~ ["This is a Nazi code - a map showing the way in or out of the Echoes of the Reich!"] commented Mrs Smith, patting Lucas's shoulder with her hands. What was the secret from this message? Where had ~~even~~ [he even] found the map? Would it be dangerous to follow this map or was it a decoy? Lucas's words swirled in his mind, racing like runaway trains, as questions collided with a growing sense of dread...

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." Strengths:

- Creates immediate intrigue and mystery through an unusual astronomical phenomenon
- Establishes the main character's unique perspective effectively

Weakness: Limited Setting Context → Your opening lacks grounding details about where and when this is happening. The reader needs a clearer picture of the world where such an event occurs. The sudden mention of "village" without any prior context leaves the scene floating.

Exemplar: *The stars above the sleepy village of Crowden flickered off each midnight like clockwork, but only young Liam, gazing from his attic window, seemed to notice.*

#2: "Though his parents were too poor to afford proper education, but Liam's love for astronomy still blossomed as he spent every night gazing at the stars." Strengths:

- Shows character motivation and passion despite obstacles
- Builds emotional connection with the reader

Weakness: Sentence Structure Flow → Your sentence contains two opposing clauses joined incorrectly with "though" and "but". This disrupts the flow of Liam's backstory and weakens the impact of his dedication to astronomy.

Exemplar: *Though his parents couldn't afford proper education, Liam's love for astronomy blossomed as he spent countless nights studying the starlit sky.*

#3: "Every evening, as the clock struck midnight, he would listen intently for the three resonant chimes that echoed through London." Strengths:

- Creates vivid sensory detail with the clock chimes
- Builds anticipation through routine

Weakness: Setting Consistency → Your narrative shifts suddenly from a village to London without explanation. The setting jumps between locations, making it difficult to picture where the story truly takes place.

Exemplar: *Every evening, as the village clock struck midnight, he would listen intently for the three resonant chimes that echoed through Crowden's empty streets.*

■ Your story has a wonderful premise about a young stargazer discovering something extraordinary. To enhance its impact, focus on building a consistent world where this magical event occurs. You've created an intriguing character in Liam, but your setting needs more careful crafting. Consider how the village's isolation adds to the mystery of the flickering stars.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the first two paragraphs focusing on establishing a clear, consistent setting that shows both the physical location and the atmosphere of the village where Liam makes his discovery.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

The Stars Lullaby

~~#1 Every midnight, the stars above the village flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice.~~ [Every midnight, as darkness settled over the village, the stars above flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice.]

The Twilight became Night, casting dark eerie shadows over the quaint and desolate village of Crowden. Liam, a small but sage boy had bony wrists and a cleft lip. From little he had fostered a love for space and astronomy. ~~#2 Though his parents were too poor to afford proper education, but Liam's love for astronomy still blossomed as he spent every night gazing at the stars.~~ [Despite his parents being unable to afford proper education, Liam's love for astronomy blossomed as he spent every night gazing at the stars.] ~~#3 Every evening, as the clock struck midnight, he would listen intently for the three resonant chimes that echoed through London.~~ [Every evening, as the

clock struck midnight, he would listen intently for the three resonant chimes that echoed through Crowden.] Dong! Dong! Dong! Then the stars which illuminated the sky would flicker like torches for one minute. He would plead the villagers and show them. ~~They would always reply with a dismissive wave of their hand,~~ [They would always reply with dismissive waves of their hands,] "It must be the clouds covering the stars!" Undeterred, he couldn't shake the feeling that there was something more to it. His desire to understand grew stronger, and he made up his mind to discover the truth for himself.

With the moonlight guiding his way, Liam ventured out one fateful night, determined to unravel the mystery that had eluded him—and the villagers—for so long. He knew that if he succeeded, he could change the way the world viewed the skies, and perhaps even his place within it...