WEEK 3 - 22nd January Homework: Year 6 Scholarship Specialisation Final Sprint

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "Sophie felt the smooth angular lines of the ancient map. Looking ahead to make sure she was on the right location. Her fingers grooving onto the soft dull parchment marked with unseen sights to behold."

Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details that bring the map to life
- Strong use of descriptive language to set the scene

Weakness: Sentence Fragment \rightarrow Your second sentence lacks a subject and stands alone. This creates a choppy flow in your opening paragraph. The phrase "Looking ahead" needs to be connected to a complete thought.

Exemplar: Sophie felt the smooth angular lines of the ancient map while scanning the horizon to confirm her location.

#2: "For countless nights, she laid struggling to sleep turning and tossing with a billion thoughts swerving into her vulnerable mind. Last night, the god had spoken to her."

Strengths:

- Creates suspense and internal conflict
- Effectively shows character's emotional state

Weakness: Unclear Timeline → Your passage jumps between "countless nights" and "last night" without showing how these connect. The mention of "the god" appears suddenly without context or build-up.

Exemplar: After countless sleepless nights filled with racing thoughts, Sophie finally received a divine message that would change everything.

#3: "The storm had warned her of the peril and dangers involved. The dark orders will never stop preventing the discovery of the truth."

Strengths:

• Introduces conflict and stakes

• Creates mystery around the antagonist

Weakness: Tense Shifting \rightarrow Your writing shifts between past tense ("had warned") and present tense ("will never stop") within the same context. This makes the timeline of events unclear.

Exemplar: The storm's warning echoed in her mind: the dark orders would never cease their efforts to hide the truth.

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating an intriguing fantasy world with connections to Arthurian legend. The mix of ancient maps, divine messages, and dark forces provides an exciting foundation. However, your story would benefit from clearer establishment of the stakes and Sophie's personal connection to this quest. You've introduced several interesting elements like the day of disorder and the storms, but these need more development to help readers understand their significance. Consider deepening the relationship between Sophie's character and the magical elements you've introduced.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the opening paragraph focusing on establishing a clearer connection between Sophie's personal motivation and the map's significance to the larger quest.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 Sophie felt the smooth angular lines of the ancient map. Looking ahead to make sure she was on the right location. Her fingers grooving onto the soft dull parehment marked with unseen sights to behold. [Sophie felt the smooth angular lines of the ancient map as she scanned her surroundings. Her fingers traced the soft, dull parchment marked with unseen sights to behold.]

Beneath the stone she was standing on was the city of Camelot; home to the legend of King Arthur and the Round Table.

#2 For countless nights, she laid struggling to sleep turning and tossing with a billion thoughts swerving into her vulnerable mind. [For countless nights, she had lain awake, tossing and turning as thoughts raced through her vulnerable mind.] Last night, the god had spoken to her. Her thoughts and ideas [are] coming true. With each turning toss and turn, wondrous possibilities were planned. Each deciding a different fate upon her. They spoke of ancient whispers. Untold stories, and chaotic schemes of those foolish enough to dare try.

However, last night, the storms had spoken about something far too ancient for her to comprehend, a strange force that could stop the legend's slow decay. For centuries, the storms have been chaos and disruption; unleashing rage and disorder among the population. Nevertheless, Sophie felt this was too urgent to be a allusion [an illusion] and too vague to be decipherable into smaller sections. All she was left with was a [an] open map filled with the whole town of Camelot.

#3 The storm had warned her of the peril and dangers involved. The dark orders will never stop preventing the discovery of the truth. [The storm had warned her of the perils ahead, for the dark orders would never cease their attempts to prevent the discovery of the truth.] However, Sophie was different. She was born on the day of disorder; the most dangerous day in history, the day the dark orders began. They rampage houses listening to the gods of King Arthur destroying every single piece of monuments built for the Round Table. They destroyed absolutely everything. All that was left was the old elephant skin map. The only key to success layer [lay] in Sophie's hands. She could not afford to fail. With a final breath of confidence, she entered the dark sewer-like cave.

□ WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Vivid imagery of the sculptures under moonlight
- Strong world-building with the Tahawky twin moons setting

Weakness: Limited sensory details → Your description focuses mainly on visual elements. Phrases like "shine with its own life" and "gleaming under the harvest moons" show overreliance on sight-based descriptions.

Exemplar: The sculptures commanded attention under the Tahawky twin moons, their crystalline surfaces humming with an otherworldly energy that made the air tingle with anticipation.

#2 (Third paragraph) Strengths:

- Good backstory development of the Tahawky culture
- Clear conflict establishment between settlers and Tahawky

Weakness: Pronoun inconsistency → Your character Kian switches between "her" and "his" pronouns. "Kian watched from the sides, holding her breath" then later "Kian was the last of his kind."

Exemplar: Kian watched from the shadows, her heart racing as she observed her people's forbidden craft taking centre stage.

#3 (Final paragraph) Strengths:

- Creates tension through internal conflict
- Effective use of rhetorical question

Weakness: Rushed ending \rightarrow Your finale leaves the conflict unresolved. The question "Should he uncover his identity" needs more development to show the weight of this decision.

Exemplar: Kian's fingers trembled over her hidden Tahawky markings. Revealing herself meant risking everything - her safety, her art, perhaps even her life. Yet staying silent meant watching her culture fade into myth.

■ Your narrative presents an intriguing premise about cultural preservation and identity. The conflict between settlers and Tahawky offers rich ground for exploring themes of prejudice and artistic expression. You could deepen the emotional impact by showing more of Kian's personal

connection to these sculptures. Try adding small details about the specific memories or traditions tied to each sculpture. Your world-building has promise, but needs more concrete details about how the Tahawky technology works. Consider expanding on the relationship between the crystals and emotions.

Actionable task: Rewrite the final paragraph focusing on Kian's internal struggle, ensuring to include specific consequences for both choices - revealing or concealing their identity.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 People marvelled at the sculptures under the perfect Tahawky twin moons. The precious stones seemed to shine with its [their] own life; gleaming under the harvest moons, their angular lines making peculiar patterns onto the soft terrestrial earth. No one knew who had made such a [such an] intricate sculpture. The settlers whispered rumours from rogue artists to divine intervention.

#2 In the shadows of the marketplace, Kian watched from the sides, holding her breath. Marvelling [Marvelling at] her own perfectly carved replicates of the ancient Chinese art on the moon. The figures were her own, a labour of countless nights hidden from plain sight of the village. They were created with forbidden Tahawky technology — and [an] ancient technique turning every crystal into precious works of art guiding emotions with the user. The settlers had banned this technique — stating they pollute and harm one users identity [The settlers had banned this technique, claiming it polluted and harmed users' identities]. To them, Tahawky's were menaces, their culture purged and gradually disappeared; Kian was the last of his [her] kind. His [Her] people had once used these techniques to celebrate harmony and unity with nature. Identity of oneself was an important aspect in Tahawky culture. Its purpose was never meant for harm but she knew the settlers would never put it that way.

#3 As rumours grew louder, a masked figure stepped forward slowly shivering [shifting] his had [hand] towards the top of the sculpture. The faint sacred mark of the Tahawky. Gasps and faces of horror appeared rippled [rippled] through the crowd like a stone thrown into a pond, its ripples spreading everywhere. "Who made this?" an angry voice demanded. Kian was the only one who knew the truth. Should he [she] uncover his [her] identity and claim his [her] heritage only to be mocked by the settlers and banished forever or disappear into [the] shadows [,] the truth lost forever?

□ INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 (First interview answer about family's influence): Strengths:

- Strong personal reflection on critical thinking development
- Clear connection between family influence and real-world application

Weakness: Limited depth in example discussion → Your response mentions news and social media broadly but lacks a specific instance where your family helped you identify misinformation. Including a concrete example would make your point more impactful.

Exemplar: When I was twelve, my father showed me how two news channels reported the same event differently, teaching me to always cross-reference information sources.

#2 (Second interview answer about family tradition): Strengths:

- Demonstrates strong community engagement
- Links tradition to personal growth and values

Weakness: Missing personal impact details → While you describe the community service activity well, you don't share how it has personally changed you or shaped your character. The phrase "discover who we are" could be expanded with specific personal discoveries.

Exemplar: Through our Sunday service, I've learned to be more grateful for what I have and developed stronger empathy - like when I met Sarah, a regular visitor who taught me about resilience despite her challenges.

#3 (Third interview answer about family inspiration): Strengths:

- Clear central message about perseverance
- Good use of direct quote to illustrate character

Weakness: Limited exploration of impact \rightarrow Your response could delve deeper into how your mum's optimism has shaped your current approach to challenges. The basketball example feels brief and could be expanded to show lasting influence.

Exemplar: After the basketball team rejection, my mum's guidance helped me channel my energy into improving my skills through daily practice, eventually leading to my selection the following year.

■ Your responses show good potential but would benefit from more detailed examples and personal reflection. Try to expand each answer by including specific situations and their lasting

impact on you. Share more about how these experiences have shaped your current behaviour and decisions. Consider adding more emotional depth to your examples.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

How has your family shaped the way you approach challenges in life? Can you give a specific example? My family has taught me to find ways around things and their is always [My family has taught me to find ways around challenges, and there is always] more than one solution or viewpoint. They have shown me different things are meant for different people to understand different purposes. For example, when I was younger I always believed in the news. [For example, when I was younger, I always believed everything in the news.] Everything I heard I trusted. However, my family taught me not just to infect [inject] my own viewpoints into what others say, but also try to find if other possible situations are possible especially during an era heavily relied on social media, misinformation is common. #1 My family not only taught me how to combat misinformation but also try to understand things my way and not get influenced by others.

What is one tradition or habit in your family that you cherish the most, and why? #2 Every Sunday, me and my family [my family and I] take part in a community service. This service not only connects us with our neighbours, but provides a chance to feed not only the homeless but people in need of food. This is more than just a routine; it's a way to reinforce our humility, service of selfless and compassion. Each service is a new opportunity to discover who we are and learn more about the world around us. This tradition not just strengthens bonds with spiritual roots, but also for the greater good of our community installing [instilling] a sense of purpose and fulfilment in all of us.

Who in your family inspires you the most, and what lessons have you learned from them? #3 My mum inspires me the most with her unwavering optimism and delightful motivation. Even though if things aren't going her way, she always seems to find a way to encourage and motivate herself. Her thinking attitude is simple: "Everyday [Every day] is a knew [new] one filled with different opportunities." Even when I got rejected from eo-curricular [co-curricular] and programs such as the basketball team, she always used that as an opportunity to grow. That sort of mindset and attitude helped me to reset and keep striving towards my goals. From my mum, I learnt that even if you don't succeed the first time, you can always do grow and succeed later – it's not always about succeeding the first time, but never giving up.