

## □ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "She felt the ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storms below still whispered secrets to those who dared listen." Strengths:

- Creates an intriguing opening that draws readers in with sensory details
- Establishes a mysterious tone through personification of storms

Weakness: Limited context → Your opening sentence leaves readers uncertain about who "she" is and why she's carving a map. The lack of character introduction makes it harder to connect with your protagonist.

Exemplar: *As Anna's fingers traced the ridges of her carefully carved map, she wondered if the legendary Tempest Eye storm still whispered its ancient secrets to brave sailors below.*

#2 "Rain slammed down upon the fleet of ships as thunder roared and growled, flashing occasional streaks of lightning across the sky, illuminating the storm clouds." Strengths:

- Vivid weather descriptions create atmosphere
- Strong action verbs bring the scene to life

Weakness: Underdeveloped setting → Your description focuses solely on the weather without giving readers a sense of where the ships are or what they look like. Phrases like "fleet of ships" could be more specific.

Exemplar: *The torrential rain battered the wooden merchant vessels, their tall masts swaying dangerously as thunder crashed overhead, illuminating the dark waters of the Caribbean.*

#3 "Water rose and fell, attacking the sides of the boats, attempting to capsize the sailing ships. Who survived? Only Anna did." Strengths:

- Creates tension through dangerous situation
- Dramatic ending hooks reader's interest

Weakness: Rushed conclusion → Your ending feels sudden, with no details about how Anna survived or what happened to others. The question "Who survived?" breaks the story's flow.

Exemplar: *Massive waves crashed against the ships' hulls, sending several vessels beneath the churning surface. As darkness fell, Anna alone clung to a piece of floating debris, the mysterious map still clutched in her trembling hands.*

■ Your narrative shows promise with its exciting premise about a dangerous storm and hidden paradise. However, you could strengthen your story by developing Anna's character earlier and showing why this journey matters to her. The paradise's treasures need more specific details to feel real and important. Try adding more about Anna's thoughts and feelings during the storm to help readers connect with her. Consider building up to the ending more gradually to make Anna's survival more meaningful.

Your task: Rewrite the ending paragraph focusing on how Anna survived the storm, including specific details about her actions and emotions during those crucial moments.

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**Score: 41/50**

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Section 2:

#1 She felt the ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storms below still whispered secrets to those who dared listen.

#2 ~~Rain slammed down upon the fleet of ships as thunder roared and growled, flashing occasional streaks of lightning across the sky, illuminating the storm clouds.~~ [Rain slammed down upon the fleet of ships whilst thunder roared and growled, its occasional streaks of lightning illuminating the storm clouds above.] They had arrived. This storm was called the Tempest Eye, and for a good reason. This storm was the most violent storm in all of history, because every single ship that had gone in, had, well, never come out. What was worse, the shipwrecks and bodies were never found, their possessions supposedly vanished, gone. However, a [an] ancient legend said in the eye of the storm lay a paradise of riches and jewels, a haven of money and gold, but the most valuable item there was the amulet that could grant a single wish, a wish that only those who found it could use. Anna clutched the map tightly. If anyone was going to find the paradise, it was her. Suddenly, the winds picked up and began to roar at the boats, its claws ripping people off the decks and plunging them into the sea. This was the Beast of the Storm, the guardian of the supposed paradise within the raging vortex. Lightning streaked out of the sky striking boats, setting the wooden structure alight, the smell of smoke and ash in the air.

#3 ~~Water rose and fell, attacking the sides of the boats, attempting to capsizize the sailing ships.~~ [Massive waves rose and fell, battering the sides of the boats and threatening to capsizize the sailing ships.] Who survived? Only Anna did.

## □ WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

### Section 1:

#1: "In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the crowd gasped at the intricate sculpture, unaware it was created by the one thing they feared the most, the Shadow." Strengths:

- Your opening immediately creates an atmospheric setting
- Your use of contrast between beauty and fear is engaging

Weakness: Limited context of the setting → Your opening plunges readers directly into the scene without establishing the world or its inhabitants. The mention of "alien sunset" suggests a different world, but readers need more details about where and when this takes place.

Exemplar: *In the soft glow of the crimson alien sunset on the desert planet of Nexus, the crowd of settlers gasped at the intricate crystal sculpture*

#2: "The Shadow was something so malevolent people could not bear to describe it, as it seemed to not have a corporeal form." Strengths:

- Your creation of mystery around the antagonist
- Your use of supernatural elements adds intrigue

Weakness: Vague characterisation → Your description of the Shadow relies too heavily on telling rather than showing. While you mention it's malevolent, you don't provide specific examples of its evil actions or impact on the world.

Exemplar: *The Shadow, a being whose mere presence had withered entire forests and turned lakes to ash, defied description as it shifted between forms like smoke in the wind*

#3: "The statue abruptly opened with a clank, revealing the monstrosities hidden within." Strengths:

- Your build-up of tension
- Your effective use of sound imagery

Weakness: Rushed climax → Your reveal happens too quickly after the build-up. The transition from celebration to horror needs more development to achieve its full impact.

Exemplar: *The statue's surface fractured with a metallic groan, splitting along invisible seams to reveal the writhing horrors that had waited patiently within its bronze depths*

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating an atmosphere of horror and suspense. However, you need to develop your world-building more thoroughly. The relationship between the Shadow and

the monarch needs clearer exploration. Your story would benefit from more detailed descriptions of how the townspeople's daily lives are affected by this ongoing war. Consider adding more sensory details throughout the piece to make the horror elements more vivid and impactful. The ending feels rushed and could use more development to properly conclude the story.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the scene where the statue opens, focusing on slowing down the moment and including more sensory details about how the townspeople react to each new horror that emerges.

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**Score: 42/50**

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Section 2:

#1 In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the crowd gasped at the intricate sculpture, unaware it was created by the one thing they feared the most, the Shadow.

~~#2 The Shadow was something so malevolent people could not bear to describe it, as it seemed to not have a corporeal form.~~ [The Shadow, a being of such malevolence that people could not bear to describe it, seemed to lack any corporeal form.] The only thing most people could see were the crimson red eyes set within the bulging mass of dark and oily flame, the gaping maw set near the bottom, a bottomless pit of pure evil. People feared the Shadow as it had many allies and held much power, commanding monstrous beings and other otherworldly monsters.

A war between the Shadow and the reigning monarch had been raging for years, thousands of losses endured on both sides. The people of the town, however, did not know this intricate statue ~~has been~~ [had been] made by the Shadow as they happily brought the carving back to town whilst merrily singing songs. As the people admired the statue while partying all night long, someone, or something, had activated the hidden mechanism ~~Suddenly,~~ [. Suddenly,] the statue began to slowly unravel as the townspeople stared in shocked silence.

~~#3 Waxy, serpentine tendrils slipped out of the carving reaching outwards like hungry snakes as a grinding sound continued to get louder, drowning out the terrified screams of the children.~~ [Waxy, serpentine tendrils slipped out of the carving, reaching outwards like hungry snakes whilst a grinding sound grew louder, drowning out the terrified screams of the children.] The statue abruptly opened with a clank, revealing the monstrosities hidden within. A grotesque, purple pulsating thing lay inside, thumping while shedding oily masses of dark power that hungrily reached out to the people, ~~hungry~~ [ravenous]. After this, the full records were not known as only one person survived, yet he seemed to have the life leached from him as he lay down, muttering under his breath. Whatever the thing was, it could not be good.