

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph): Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details in describing the map's physical features
- Strong emotional connection established through personal history

Weakness: Limited development of the map's significance → While you describe the map's physical features well, its deeper meaning and connection to the storms could be stronger. The phrase "Each groove seemed to hum faintly" hints at magic but doesn't fully explore why this matters.

Exemplar: *The map's grooves pulsed with ancient power, each line telling the story of storms that had shaped her brother's fate.*

#2 (Second paragraph): Strengths:

- Effective use of weather imagery to create atmosphere
- Strong emotional tension through internal questioning

Weakness: Underdeveloped character motivation → Your description of Mara's feelings about her brother needs more depth. The phrase "if he had found what he was seeking" leaves readers wondering what specifically he hoped to find.

Exemplar: *She gazed into the valley, remembering how her brother had spoken of hidden truths within the storms - secrets that had consumed his every waking moment.*

#3 (Third paragraph): Strengths:

- Engaging build-up of tension
- Good use of physical sensations

Weakness: Unclear stakes → The ending lacks clear consequences of Mara's choice. The phrase "would the storms finally reveal their secrets?" doesn't tell us what she hopes to learn or fears to lose.

Exemplar: *Her pulse quickened as the voices grew louder, promising answers about her brother's fate - or perhaps the same oblivion that had claimed him.*

■ Your narrative creates an intriguing magical setting with strong imagery. The relationship between Mara and her brother adds emotional weight to the story. However, you could make the stakes clearer by showing what Mara hopes to achieve or fears to lose. Try adding more specific details about the brother's beliefs about the storms and what truths he thought they held. This would help readers understand Mara's motivation better. You could also strengthen the ending by making it clearer what Mara expects to find in the storms.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the third paragraph focusing on what specific answers Mara hopes to find in the storms and what consequences she might face.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 She traced the carved map with trembling fingers, its ridges like miniature mountain ranges etched in ancient cedar. Each groove seemed to hum faintly; ~~a living thing connected to the storms below~~ [connecting like a living thread to the storms below]. The storms were said to whisper truths to those who dared to listen. Mara's brother had once believed them, his last words etched in her memory: "They're not chaos, Mara. They're trying to speak." Then he had gone into the tempest, leaving behind only the map he had spent years creating.

#2 Now she stood at the cliff's edge, her heart a war drum in her chest. The winds that tugged at her hair carried faint voices—not words, but something ancient and raw. Lightning forked in the distance, illuminating the valley below like a jagged scar. ~~She wondered, as she often did, if her brother had been swallowed whole or if he had found what he was seeking~~ [She wondered, as she had countless times before, whether the storms had claimed her brother or revealed their secrets to him]. Was this map his legacy or his warning?

#3 The first step toward the storm felt like stepping into another world. The air buzzed with electricity, and the ground beneath her boots trembled. Her pulse quickened as the voices grew louder, almost coherent, almost... inviting. She squeezed the map tightly. ~~Was she chasing a memory, or would the storms finally reveal their secrets?~~ [Was she pursuing nothing but her brother's ghost, or would the storms at last speak their truth to her?]

□ WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "Under the eerie glow of the twin moons, the crowd stood in hushed reverence. The sculpture before them shimmered, a lattice of glowing threads so fine it seemed spun from moonlight itself."

Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details that create a magical atmosphere
- Strong imagery with the moonlight metaphor

Weakness: Limited emotional depth → Your opening focuses heavily on the physical description but misses an opportunity to establish the deeper significance of this gathering. The phrase "hushed reverence" hints at emotions but doesn't fully explore why this moment matters so deeply to the crowd.

Exemplar: *The twin moons cast their eerie glow over the gathering, where hundreds stood frozen in wonder, their hearts racing at the sight of something that challenged everything they believed about their world.*

#2 "Axel watched from the shadows, their mandibles clicking softly in apprehension. The sculpture had been their greatest effort, their way to bridge the chasm between their kind and the humans who feared them."

Strengths:

- Strong character motivation
- Effective use of physical details to show emotion

Weakness: Underdeveloped conflict → Your introduction of Axel's hopes lacks details about past attempts at connection. The phrase "bridge the chasm" needs more context about specific incidents that created this fear.

Exemplar: *Hidden in darkness, Axel's mandibles clicked with nervous energy. After countless failed attempts at peace, this sculpture represented their last hope to show humans that beauty could emerge from even the most feared hands.*

#3 "Could beauty born of fear teach the lesson Axel so desperately wished to share?"

Strengths:

- Thought-provoking thematic question
- Strong emotional resonance

Weakness: Incomplete resolution → Your ending question leaves the central conflict hanging without hints of possible outcomes. The word "desperately" suggests high stakes but doesn't show what those stakes are.

Exemplar: *As the crowd's whispers grew, Axel wondered if this moment of shared wonder could finally break down the walls of mistrust - or if fear would once again blind them to the possibility of understanding.*

■ Your narrative presents a fascinating exploration of art as a bridge between different species. However, you could strengthen the impact by developing the history of conflict between humans and Crawlers. Consider adding specific instances of past misunderstandings or failed connections. Your story would benefit from showing more reactions from different members of the crowd beyond just the child. Try deepening the stakes by revealing what might happen if this attempt at connection fails.

Actionable task: Rewrite the second paragraph focusing on one specific previous attempt at connection that failed, then link it to why this artistic approach might succeed where others failed.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 Under the eerie glow of the twin moons, the crowd stood in hushed reverence. The sculpture before them shimmered, a lattice of glowing threads so fine it seemed spun from moonlight itself.

#2 Axel watched from the shadows, their mandibles clicking softly in apprehension. The sculpture had been their greatest effort, their way to bridge the chasm between their kind and the humans who feared them. Axel's race—known to humans only as "the Crawlers"—were seen as monstrous invaders, not artists. But Axel's creation sang a silent song of understanding. Each thread of the sculpture vibrated faintly, resonating with the heartbeat of the alien world they all shared.

#3 ~~A small child broke from the crowd and approached the sculpture.~~ [Breaking from the crowd, a small child approached the sculpture.] "It's alive," she whispered, placing her tiny hand on the base. Gasps rippled through the onlookers, their awe tipping into unease. Axel twitched nervously

but remained hidden. They knew this moment could lead to either acceptance or another wave of fear.

Could beauty born of fear teach the lesson Axel so desperately wished to share?

□ INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 "My family shaped my approach to challenges through a legacy of perseverance and ingenuity. I remember the winter our heater broke..."

Strengths:

- Vivid storytelling with specific details about the broken heater incident
- Effective use of imagery to convey family bonds during hardship

Weakness: Limited reflection on long-term impact → Your answer focuses heavily on one specific incident but doesn't fully explore how this shaped your broader approach to different types of challenges in your professional or academic life.

I learned to approach workplace challenges with the same resourcefulness my father showed that winter. For instance, when faced with limited resources on projects, I've learned to innovate and find creative solutions, just as he did with the heater.

#2 "The tradition I treasure most is our annual 'family promise night.'..."

Strengths:

- Clear connection between family tradition and personal growth
- Meaningful integration of specific examples

Weakness: Underdeveloped outcome → Your response touches on how the promises influenced you but doesn't fully demonstrate the concrete results or lasting impact of this tradition on your career decisions or professional development.

This tradition has directly influenced my work ethic, as I now set quarterly goals with my team, inspired by the accountability and support system I experienced during family promise nights.

#3 "My grandmother's wisdom shines brighter with each story she tells..."

Strengths:

- Powerful metaphorical language
- Strong emotional resonance

Weakness: Abstract application → Your answer emphasises the inspirational aspect but could better illustrate how you've applied your grandmother's wisdom in specific professional situations.

When leading my team through our company's restructuring, I remembered my grandmother's resilience and helped maintain team morale by focusing on growth opportunities, just as she created new beginnings from challenges.

■ Your responses show genuine emotional depth and strong storytelling skills. Consider expanding each answer to include more specific examples of how these family influences have shaped your professional decisions and leadership style. You could strengthen your answers by drawing clear parallels between family lessons and workplace applications. Try to balance personal anecdotes with professional outcomes.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 My family shaped my approach to challenges through a legacy of perseverance and ingenuity. I remember the winter our heater broke. My father worked long nights repairing it with little more than duct tape and determination, while my mother taught us how to insulate ourselves with laughter and layers of old quilts. The house was freezing, but we played games by candlelight, and every struggle became an adventure. That winter taught me two things: how to face adversity with grit and that challenges are often opportunities to create memories—if you let them.

#2 ~~The tradition I treasure most is~~ [My most treasured tradition is] our annual "family promise night." Every New Year's Eve, we gather in the living room, candles flickering like tiny stars, and make promises—not resolutions, but vows to ourselves and each other. One year, I promised to stand up to my fears, a vow inspired by the courage my father had shown when starting a new career late in life. That promise carried me through difficult exams and even a job interview that terrified me. Family promise night isn't just a tradition; it's a beacon that guides us all year long.

#3 My grandmother's wisdom shines brighter with each story she tells. She speaks of fleeing her war-torn homeland as a young girl, her voice steady as the weight of history settles in the room. One night, she said to me, "When the world burns around you, build your own light." Those words stayed with me. When I face rejection or setbacks, I remember her—a woman who grew a garden in the ashes of her past. Her strength isn't just inspiring; it's a reminder that resilience is the most powerful legacy we inherit.