

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. The crinkled paper continued to score against Lucy's calloused fingers, the tanned paper revealing secrets of past millenia."

Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details create an immersive atmosphere
- Strong word choices like "whispered secrets" build intrigue

Weakness: Limited character depth → Your opening focuses heavily on physical descriptions but gives little insight into Lucy's thoughts or motivations about the map carving.

"As Lucy traced the ancient ridges of the map, her fingers trembled with anticipation - each marking could lead to the discovery that would prove her years of research weren't in vain."

#2 "Slam! A sudden crack befell the ship, tossing Lucy off her chair. She winced in pain as she stared in front of her. Her heart sank. A gaping hole tore through the ship in front of Lucy's eyes."

Strengths:

- Effective use of sound effects creates tension
- Quick, punchy sentences build urgency

Weakness: Repetitive descriptions → You mention "in front of" twice within close proximity, making the action sequence less dynamic.

"The ship groaned and splintered as Lucy crashed to the floor, her eyes widening at the massive breach in the hull before her."

#3 "As the ship was slowly sinking into the abyssal sea, Lucy had to make the decision of her life. Save the crew who she had worked her entire sea life with, or save the map and herself, preserving possibly thousands of years of knowledge and millions of dollars of treasure."

Strengths:

- Creates compelling moral dilemma
- Stakes are clearly established

Weakness: Underdeveloped emotional weight → Your presentation of Lucy's choice lacks personal connection to specific crew members or emotional investment in the map's historical significance.

"As icy water rushed in, Lucy clutched the ancient map to her chest, Captain Morris's desperate cries echoing from above - the same man who'd mentored her since she first stepped aboard five years ago."

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating excitement and tension, but could benefit from deeper character development. Consider adding more details about Lucy's personal connection to both the crew and the map's significance. You've built an interesting premise about treasure hunters disguised as merchants, but this element could be explored further. Try incorporating more specific details about the historical significance of the map and Lucy's expertise in cartography to make the stakes feel more personal.

Actionable task: Rewrite the final paragraph focusing on Lucy's emotional struggle by including specific memories or interactions with crew members and her personal investment in the map's historical significance.

Score: 42/50

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. The crinkled paper continued to score against Lucy's calloused fingers, the tanned paper revealing secrets of past ~~millenia~~ [millennia].

#2 ~~Slam! A sudden crack befell the ship, tossing Lucy off her chair.~~ [With a deafening slam, the ship cracked violently, throwing Lucy from her chair.] She winced in pain as she stared in front of her. Her heart sank. ~~A gaping hole tore through the ship in front of Lucy's eyes.~~ [Before her, the hull burst open, leaving a gaping hole.] Water began to gush in like a flash flood as Lucy heard the merchants on the deck shouting and screaming in fear.

#3 ~~As the ship was slowly sinking into the abyssal sea, Lucy had to make the decision of her life.~~ [As the ship descended into the abyssal sea, Lucy faced the most crucial decision of her life.] Save the crew who she had worked her entire sea life with, or save the map and herself, preserving possibly thousands of years of knowledge and millions of dollars of treasure. It was up to Lucy to decide the fate of the crew. As the black sails of the pirate ship drifted towards them, cannonballs continued to rain down on the merchants and Lucy. She was standing in agonising

fear, pondering about the weight of her decision. Boom! Wood was flying like a hurricane as the ship's wasted remains sank to the bottom of the sea, taking Lucy and the map down with it.

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 most. As the sun melted over the horizon, it resembled a different tone. It wasn't amber or golden, it was emerald green."

Strengths:

- Strong sensory details that create a vivid atmospheric opening
- Effective use of colour contrast between traditional sunset hues and alien green

Weakness: Limited Development → Your opening lacks deeper context about why this sculpture is significant. The phrase "the one thing they feared most" needs more build-up to create impact.

Exemplar: *In the soft glow of the alien sunset, whispers rippled through the crowd as they gazed at the towering sculpture. Its mysterious origins had sparked countless rumours, but none could have guessed it was crafted by their deepest fear incarnate.*

#2 "As Daniel pondered over the mysterious verse, he saw miniscule dots appear over the horizon. He looked up, in shock."

Strengths:

- Good pacing that builds tension
- Effective use of the protagonist's reaction to heighten suspense

Weakness: Underdeveloped Character Response → Your writing shows Daniel's physical reaction but misses his emotional state. The phrase "in shock" tells rather than shows his response.

Exemplar: *As Daniel decoded the mysterious verse, his hands trembled at the sight of tiny dots materialising across the horizon. His heart pounded as ancient legends suddenly became reality before his eyes.*

#3 "Soon the statue was filled with green. Arms started reaching and grabbing out of the statue, contrasting the sculpture's serene intricacy."

Strengths:

- Striking visual imagery
- Strong contrast between serenity and chaos

Weakness: Rushed Progression → Your scene moves too quickly from one event to another. The phrase "Soon the statue was filled with green" needs more details about this transformation.

Exemplar: *Tendrils of ethereal green light pulsed through the statue's veins, transforming its serene beauty into something otherworldly. Crystalline arms burst forth from within, their movements both graceful and terrifying against the sculpture's delicate framework.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating an exciting alien invasion story. You have built interesting elements with the mysterious book and the transforming statue. To enhance your writing's impact, try developing more detailed connections between these elements. Show how Daniel's knowledge from the book affects his actions and decisions. Add more details about the crowd's changing reactions as events unfold. Consider expanding on why this particular location was chosen for the alien arrival.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the scene where Daniel discovers the connection between the book and the statue, focusing on his emotional journey and internal thoughts as he pieces together the clues.

Score: 41/50

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 most. ~~As the sun melted over the horizon, it resembled a different tone.~~ [As the sun descended below the horizon, its light shifted to an unfamiliar hue.] It wasn't amber or golden, it was emerald green. The statue towered over the expanding crowd, its sharp architectural details making the crowd gasp, unaware of the events about to unfold.

As Daniel pushed his way to the front of the crowd, ~~pale in confusion~~ [his face pale with confusion]. "Could this be..." Daniel softly whispered to himself, holding out a torn, crumpled book in his hands. The book cover resembled the exact scene taking place. As Daniel flicked through the pages he softly read out the words of the poem.

"As the lime sun lowers, the statue rises. The crowd [was] amazed, but unaware. A problem in the skies, life outside of borders."

#2 As Daniel pondered over the mysterious verse, he saw minuscule dots appear over the horizon. He looked up, in shock.

Daniel jumped onto the statue and shouted, "You have to leave immediately, everyone! There are aliens, you can look above!" "~~Ha! Aliens don't exist!~~" ["Ha! You must be mad - aliens don't exist!"] A crowd member shouted. "Yeah, crazy kid, get off the statue," said another.

#3 As the crowd continued to holler about Daniel, cracks with an eerie green presence started overflowing the statue. Soon the statue was filled with green. Arms started reaching and grabbing out of the statue, contrasting the sculpture's serene intricacy. ~~Boom!~~ [With an earth-shattering boom,] The statue erupted into an inferno of vermillion flames, green beings sprawled across the floor. "ALIENS!"

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 "My family has shaped the way I approach challenges in many ways. My parents always look out for me as their number one priority, comforting me and making me feel happy when I'm down."

Strengths:

- Shows personal connection through emotional support
- Demonstrates clear relationship with parents

Weakness: Limited concrete details → Your response begins with a general statement but needs more specific examples showing how your family shaped your approach.

I learned resilience from my family, particularly when my mother encouraged me to persevere through challenging mathematics coursework by breaking problems into smaller, manageable steps.

#2 "We also play games like Wordle, when we all solve the words together as a family, or we play card games like Uno. I love this time because we are all enjoying our time together as a family, not glued to our devices."

Strengths:

- Provides specific activities
- Shows value of family bonding

Weakness: Surface-level reflection → Your answer focuses on what you do but not why these moments are meaningful beyond basic enjoyment.

These evening games have taught me the value of collaboration and creative thinking, skills that I now apply in my school projects.

#3 "My Dad is also someone who constantly inspires me, always innovating and thinking in ways that I never knew could be possible and always is brave, making me feel fearless next to him."

Strengths:

- Shows admiration for parent
- Links parent's qualities to personal growth

Weakness: Vague description → Your response needs specific examples of your father's innovative thinking and bravery.

My father's innovative approach was evident when he helped me design an eco-friendly school project, teaching me to think outside conventional solutions.

■ Your answers would benefit from more detailed examples showing how family experiences have shaped your character and outlook. Try to expand on the impact of each family tradition or interaction. When discussing inspiration from family members, include specific situations that demonstrate their qualities. Your responses are heartfelt but could dive deeper into the lasting influence of these family dynamics.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

1. How has your family shaped the way you approach challenges in life? Can you give a specific example?

#1 My family has shaped the way I approach challenges in many ways. ~~My parents always look out for me as their number one priority,~~ [As their top priority, my parents consistently support me,] comforting me and making me feel happy when I'm down. We tackle challenges head on, and if we make mistakes we learn from them and keep persisting. We also remember to have fun, and not get too pressured. My family also always cheers me on in my victories, and takes mistakes positively. For instance, I was aiming for the school leader position. I made it through all the rounds, my family cheering me on as I went. ~~Although,~~ [However,] I ended up not getting selected and I saw that as a big disappointment. However, my family comforted me, and helped me find other ways to be a leader, like how I dreamed of. In the end, I walked away as a better person, and I was happy for my friend who made it in.

2. What is one tradition or habit in your family that you cherish the most, and why?

#2 My favourite tradition/habit in my family is probably our dinner tradition. At the end of the day, when we are all tired, we all sit around our table and share our stories of the day, and unwind and relax. ~~We also play games like Wordle, when we all solve the words together as a family,~~ [Together as a family, we solve Wordle puzzles] or we play card games like Uno. I love this time because we are all enjoying our time together as a family, not glued to our devices. This time also proves to be a great ending to the day as we relax, talking to each other.

3. Who in your family inspires you the most, and what lessons have you learned from them?

#3 In my family, I would say that my Mum is a pioneering person who I constantly look up to. She always helps me out, dedicating so much time that proves how passionate she is. She is a great teacher, always trying to teach me concepts that she barely understands, making her an idol for her effort and dedication. ~~My Dad is also someone who constantly inspires me, always innovating and thinking in ways that I never knew could be possible and always is brave, making me feel fearless next to him.~~ [My Dad also constantly inspires me through his innovative thinking and bravery, qualities that make me feel fearless in his presence.] Overall, I would say my whole family is made up of amazing people who inspire me.