

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "She felt the coarse, sharp ridges of the wooden map she was engraving and wondered if the bloodcurdling storms were telling secrets for those who dare to listen. The ever-so-slight tilt of the beast of a boat."

Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details that engage touch and sound
- Creates an atmospheric opening that builds suspense

Weakness: Lack of setting context → Your opening plunges straight into the action without establishing where the scene takes place. "The beast of a boat" feels disconnected without prior context about the vessel or situation.

Exemplar: *The ancient galleon creaked beneath her fingers as she traced the coarse ridges of the wooden map, wondering if the bloodcurdling storm held secrets for those who dared to listen.*

#2: "The wind howled like a banshee, and the rain pelted her skin like icy needles, each dropping a sting against her exposed face."

Strengths:

- Strong use of similes that convey the storm's intensity
- Detailed physical sensations that put readers in the moment

Weakness: Overuse of weather descriptions → Your writing includes multiple weather descriptions that say similar things. "Wind howled" and "rain pelted" could be combined more effectively.

Exemplar: *The storm's fury lashed at her exposed skin with needle-sharp rain while banshee winds threatened to tear her from the deck.*

#3: "This stark emptiness reminded her of a memory she had tried to bury deep within her heart—the abandoned baby girl she had found on another forsaken ship, left alone amidst chaos and despair."

Strengths:

- Introduces compelling backstory
- Links past trauma to present situation effectively

Weakness: Rushed emotional revelation → Your introduction of this crucial backstory feels sudden. The emotional impact could be stronger with more build-up.

Exemplar: *As she stared at the empty deck, memories she'd fought to suppress came rushing back - the tiny wails that had led her to the abandoned infant on that ghost ship years ago, another soul left to the mercy of the seas.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating a mysterious and tense atmosphere at sea. The connection between the missing crew and Kylie's past trauma with the abandoned baby gives your story emotional depth. You could strengthen the plot by clarifying the relationship between the map, the storm, and the disappearing crew earlier in the story. The mention of the Kueh King needs more development to feel meaningful to the plot. Your character's determination to find the crew is compelling, but you could make the stakes clearer. Adding more specific details about what Kylie and Jason plan to do would make their resolve more convincing.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the opening paragraph focusing on establishing the setting and connecting the map's significance to the approaching storm and the Kueh King's influence.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

#1 She felt the coarse, sharp ridges of the wooden map she was engraving and wondered if the bloodcurdling storms were telling secrets for those who dare to listen. ~~The ever-so-slight tilt of the beast of a boat.~~ [The massive vessel tilted ever so slightly beneath her feet.] Her fingers skated across the extensive map segment. She thought, "What if the island is in the storm with a spell of the evil Kueh King, meant to be forgotten forever and the secrets are the silent screams of people?"

#2 "Kylie, the crew is gone!" yelled Jason, his voice cracking with panic. She dragged her body over the beaten-up wooden planks, her heart pounding in her chest. The wind howled like a banshee, and the rain pelted her skin like icy needles, each dropping a sting against her exposed face. As she reached the front deck, ~~the scene struck her with a chilling realization: it was empty, devoid of life, filled only with the echoes of the crew now gone.~~ [the scene before her sent chills

down her spine - where the crew should have been, only empty space remained, haunted by echoes of their presence.]

#3 The eerie emptiness of the front deck contrasted sharply with the vibrant memories she had of the crew bustling about, their laughter and conversations weaving a tapestry of camaraderie. Now, only silence and the relentless storm remained. ~~This stark emptiness reminded her of a memory she had tried to bury deep within her heart—the abandoned baby girl she had found on another forsaken ship, left alone amidst chaos and despair.~~ [The desolate scene unearthed a memory she'd fought to forget - the abandoned baby girl she'd discovered on another forsaken ship, her tiny form alone amidst the wreckage of shattered lives.] Kylie clenched her fists, the memory searing through her like a bolt of lightning. "We can't let this happen again," she murmured to herself, a fierce resolve building within her. "We can't leave anyone behind." Jason joined her on the deck, his face etched with worry. "What do we do, Kylie?" His voice was almost drowned by the deafening roar of the waves crashing against the hull, each impact sending tremors through the boat. She took a deep breath, the salty tang of the ocean filling her lungs, the weight of their mission pressing down on her. "We stay on course and find the island's secrets. But we also keep an eye out for the crew. We can't abandon them, Jason. Not like... not like the baby girl."

□ 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. The sculpture stood tall and hauntingly beautiful, its forms so delicate and complex that it seemed almost otherworldly."

Strengths:

- Strong opening that immediately draws readers in with vivid imagery
- Effective build-up of mystery and tension

Weakness: Limited context → Your opening lacks background about why the Shadow Weaver is feared. Without this foundation, the impact of the revelation feels less powerful. The phrase "the one thing they feared most" needs more supporting details.

Exemplar: *In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the crowd gasped at the intricate sculpture, unaware it was created by the Shadow Weaver - the being whose devastating powers had razed entire cities to ash. The sculpture stood tall and hauntingly beautiful, its forms so delicate and complex that it seemed almost otherworldly.*

#2 "The air was thick with the scent of alien flora, a heady mix of sweet and tangy aromas that mingled with the metallic tang of the cooling evening. The soft murmur of the crowd was punctuated by the distant, soothing hum of an unseen alien lifeform, a sound both haunting and beautiful."

Strengths:

- Rich sensory details that create atmosphere
- Good balance of different sensory elements

Weakness: Repetitive sensory descriptions → Your writing repeats similar sensory details like "metallic tang" appearing twice in nearby paragraphs. The descriptions of scents and sounds could be more varied.

Exemplar: *The air was thick with the scent of alien flora, a heady mix of sweet and tangy aromas that mingled with the sharp bite of the cooling evening. The soft murmur of the crowd was punctuated by the crystalline songs of unseen creatures, their melody both haunting and beautiful.*

#3 "Tears welled up in the eyes of an elder, who had lived through the darkest days of the Shadow Weaver's reign. She reached out a trembling hand, almost as if to touch the sculpture, but hesitated, overcome by a rush of conflicting emotions—fear, awe, and a glimmer of hope."

Strengths:

- Powerful emotional moment through specific character focus
- Good use of physical actions to show emotions

Weakness: Underdeveloped character moment → Your writing introduces this elder but doesn't fully explore her personal connection to the Shadow Weaver's reign. The phrase "darkest days" needs specific memories or experiences to make her emotional reaction more meaningful.

Exemplar: *Tears welled up in the eyes of Elder Mai, who had watched the Shadow Weaver destroy her village fifty years ago. She reached out a trembling hand, almost as if to touch the sculpture, but hesitated, overcome by memories of that terrible day mixed with an unexpected glimmer of hope.*

■ Your narrative shows great promise in building an intriguing alien world and exploring themes of redemption. You could strengthen the emotional impact by adding more specific details about the Shadow Weaver's past actions. Try to vary your sensory descriptions more to avoid repetition. The character moments need deeper personal connections to make the story's message about fear and hope more powerful. Think about adding small but specific details about how the Shadow Weaver affected individual lives. Your ending could be stronger if you showed how this moment changes things for the community.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the elder's scene, adding specific memories of her experiences during the Shadow Weaver's reign and how this sculpture challenges her long-held fears.

Score: 42/50

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. The sculpture stood tall and hauntingly beautiful, its forms so delicate and complex that it seemed almost otherworldly. Shadows danced across its surface as the twin suns dipped below the horizon, casting a warm, ethereal light that highlighted every curve and detail.

#2 The air was thick with the scent of alien flora, a heady mix of sweet and tangy aromas that mingled with the metallic tang of the cooling evening. The soft murmur of the crowd was punctuated by the distant, soothing hum of an unseen alien lifeform, a sound both haunting and beautiful. ~~The cool breeze carried the delicate scent of the night-blooming flowers, mingling with the sharp, metallic tang of the alien atmosphere.~~ [A cool breeze swept through, carrying the delicate scent of night-blooming flowers through the crisp alien air.]

#3 Tears welled up in the eyes of an elder, who had lived through the darkest days of the Shadow Weaver's reign. She reached out a trembling hand, almost as if to touch the sculpture, but hesitated, overcome by a rush of conflicting emotions—fear, awe, and a glimmer of hope. The sculpture's surface, cool to the touch and slightly luminescent, seemed to pulse with an inner light, casting an enchanting glow on the elder's face.

At the edge of the crowd, a lone figure watched with a knowing smile. The artist had achieved something remarkable—a bridge between fear and understanding, a testament to the power of creation to transcend even the darkest of legends. In that moment, hearts began to soften, and the whispers of hope grew louder, mingling with the alien sunset's fading light.

□ INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1: "My family has always emphasized resilience and perseverance... any obstacle can be overcome." Strengths:

- Clear connection between family values and personal development
- Compelling real-life example with father's job loss

Weakness: Limited emotional depth → Your response focuses mainly on the practical aspects of overcoming challenges but misses the emotional journey. While mentioning your father's job loss, you don't share how this experience affected you emotionally or how your family supported each other during this difficult time.

Exemplar: ***During my father's job loss, witnessing his determination while managing multiple jobs deeply moved me. Our family's emotional support during this period shaped my approach to facing life's challenges with both resilience and vulnerability.***

#2: "One cherished tradition in my family is our weekly Sunday dinners..." Strengths:

- Specific routine that demonstrates family values
- Clear explanation of the tradition's impact

Weakness: Surface-level description → Your description of Sunday dinners stays at a basic level. You mention "laugh and support one another" but don't provide specific moments or conversations that make these dinners meaningful. What special discussions or activities happen during these dinners?

Exemplar: ***Our Sunday dinners become especially meaningful when we share our weekly challenges and celebrate small victories, like my sister's first successful presentation or my brother overcoming his fear of public speaking.***

#3: "My grandmother inspires me the most..." Strengths:

- Shows deep admiration for family member
- Links grandmother's qualities to personal growth

Weakness: Lack of specific examples → Your response about your grandmother uses general terms like "countless adversities" and "valuable lessons" without sharing particular situations. What specific challenges did she face? What exact wisdom did she share?

Exemplar: *My grandmother's experience of rebuilding her life after moving countries with three young children, while learning a new language and working two jobs, taught me that resilience comes from taking small steps forward each day.*

■ Your responses would benefit from deeper personal reflection and more detailed examples. Try to share specific conversations, emotions, and moments that illustrate your points. When discussing family influence, include both practical and emotional impacts. Think about particular situations where family values were tested or celebrated. Consider expanding your answers by describing how these experiences continue to affect your current decisions and relationships.

Score: 38/50

Section 2:

How has your family shaped the way you approach challenges in life? Can you give a specific example? #1 My family has always emphasized resilience and perseverance. Growing up, my parents demonstrated the importance of determination and hard work in overcoming challenges. ~~One specific example is when my father lost his job during an economic downturn. Instead of succumbing to despair, he took on multiple part-time jobs and even started a small business.~~ [When my father lost his job during the economic downturn, he demonstrated remarkable resilience by taking on multiple part-time jobs and eventually establishing a small business.] This taught me that challenges are opportunities in disguise and that with the right mindset, any obstacle can be overcome. Their unwavering support and belief in my capabilities have instilled in me a strong sense of confidence and tenacity.

What is one tradition or habit in your family that you cherish the most, and why? #2 One cherished tradition in my family is our weekly Sunday dinners. Every Sunday, regardless of how busy our schedules are, we come together to share a meal and catch up on each other's lives. This tradition has been a cornerstone of our family, fostering strong bonds and open communication. ~~It's a time when we can relax, laugh, and support one another.~~ [These gatherings provide us precious moments to relax, share laughter, and offer mutual support.] I cherish this tradition because it reinforces the importance of family, provides a sense of stability, and creates lasting memories. It's a simple yet profound way to stay connected and maintain our family unity.

Who in your family inspires you the most, and what lessons have you learned from them? #3 My grandmother inspires me the most. She has faced countless adversities with grace and strength, always maintaining a positive outlook. Her resilience, kindness, and unwavering faith in the face of challenges have taught me valuable lessons. From her, I've learned the importance of

compassion, the power of perseverance, and the value of staying true to oneself. ~~She has shown me that it's not the circumstances that define us, but how we respond to them.~~ [Through her example, I've learned that our responses to circumstances, rather than the circumstances themselves, truly define our character.] Her wisdom and guidance have shaped my character and continue to inspire me to be a better person every day.