

## WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

### Section 1:

#1 "Ellis traced the etched lines of her map, her fingers catching on the jagged grooves that marked uncharted territories below the floating city of Asgard. The storms had whispered to her again last night, their voices weaving through her dreams, filling her with both dread and longing."

#### Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details through tactile description of map tracing
- Strong emotional contrast between dread and longing

Weakness: Limited worldbuilding context → Your opening introduces fascinating elements like floating cities and speaking storms, but leaves readers wondering about basic aspects of this world. The phrase "floating city of Asgard" needs more context about how it stays afloat and why it exists in the air.

Exemplar: *The ancient mechanisms that kept Asgard suspended in the clouds groaned as Ellis traced the etched lines of her map, her fingers catching on the jagged grooves that marked the uncharted territories far below their failing sanctuary.*

#2 "For generations, Asgard's leaders had forbidden listening to the storms, labelling it madness. Ellis, however, wasn't like the others. She had been born during the Night of Whispers, when the storms had sung louder than ever before."

#### Strengths:

- Clear establishment of conflict between authority and protagonist
- Intriguing backstory element with the Night of Whispers

Weakness: Underdeveloped social dynamics → Your portrayal of the relationship between Ellis and Asgard's society needs more depth. The phrase "wasn't like the others" feels too simple for the complex social dynamics you're trying to convey.

Exemplar: *The Council's ancient laws branded storm-listeners as dangerous outcasts, but Ellis's birth during the Night of Whispers had marked her as something they feared even more - a bridge between their world and the tempests below.*

#3 "Her fingers trembled as she marked the next point on her map. The path was dangerous, and the storms' whispers grew louder with every decision. Each step forward seemed to pull her deeper into their grasp, blurring the line between her thoughts and theirs."

Strengths:

- Effective physical manifestation of fear through trembling
- Strong progression of tension

Weakness: Unclear stakes → Your writing doesn't fully convey what Ellis risks losing beyond herself. The phrase "pull her deeper into their grasp" needs to show specific consequences of failing her mission.

Exemplar: *Her fingers trembled as she marked the next point on her map, knowing each step towards the storm's heart could cost her not just her sanity, but the lives of everyone who called Asgard home.*

■ Your narrative presents an engaging premise about a chosen one who must save her floating city. To deepen your story, consider developing the practical challenges of living in a floating city and how its failing affects daily life. Your character's special connection to the storms would feel more meaningful if you showed how it impacts her relationships with family and friends. Try adding specific details about how the storms communicate - through colours, patterns, or sensations - to make their presence more unique and memorable. Your ending question works well to create tension, but you could make it stronger by showing what Ellis has already sacrificed to reach this point.

Actionable task: Rewrite the second paragraph focusing on a specific memory of when Ellis first realised she could hear the storms, including others' reactions and the personal cost of her ability.

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**Score: 43/50**

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Section 2:

#1 Ellis traced the etched lines of her map, her fingers catching on the jagged grooves that marked uncharted territories below the floating city of Asgard. ~~The storms had whispered to her again last night, their voices weaving through her dreams, filling her with both dread and longing.~~ [Last night, the storms had whispered to her once more, their voices weaving through her dreams and filling her with both dread and longing.]

#2 ~~For generations, Asgard's leaders had forbidden listening to the storms, labelling it madness. [Throughout generations, Asgard's leaders had forbidden storm-listening, denouncing it as madness.] Ellis, however, wasn't like the others. She had been born during the Night of Whispers, when the storms had sung louder than ever before. It was said children born that night carried the mark of the storm in their veins. [They said children born that night carried the storm's mark in their veins.] Whether it was a curse or a gift, she didn't know.~~

The city's energy core was failing. The Council debated evacuations, abandoning the floating haven for the unpredictable surface below. But Ellis knew better. The storms held secrets—ones only she could uncover.

#3 Her fingers trembled as she marked the next point on her map. The path was dangerous, and the storms' whispers grew louder with every decision. Each step forward seemed to pull her deeper into their grasp, blurring the line between her thoughts and theirs. Would she find salvation for her people—or lose herself to the storm's call?

## WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "The crowd gathered in hushed awe as the sculpture gleamed under Calyra's twin moons. The crystalline figure seemed to breathe, its angular edges capturing the moonlight in an ethereal display."

Strengths:

- Your vivid sensory details create a mesmerising atmosphere
- Your careful word choice ("hushed awe", "ethereal") builds mystery

Weakness: Limited setting context → While your opening creates atmosphere, you could ground readers more firmly in the physical space. The market square only appears later, leaving the initial setting floating.

Exemplar: *The crowd gathered in hushed awe beneath the market square's stone archways as the sculpture gleamed under Calyra's twin moons.*

#2: "She had used forbidden tech—an ancient Calyran device capable of transforming matter with exquisite precision, guided by the emotions of its wielder."

Strengths:

- Your integration of unique technological elements adds depth
- Your connection between emotions and technology creates intrigue

Weakness: Underdeveloped technological background → Your mention of the device leaves readers wanting more about how it works with emotions. The phrase "guided by emotions" needs more concrete details about this connection.

Exemplar: *She had used forbidden tech—an ancient Calyran device that channelled her grief and hope into crystalline forms, transforming matter with exquisite precision.*

#3: "Kyra's heart raced. She had wanted them to remember her people's beauty, but her creation now risked exposing her."

Strengths:

- Your internal conflict effectively raises stakes
- Your character's motivation feels genuine and meaningful

Weakness: Shallow emotional exploration → Your character's feelings could be deeper. The phrase "wanted them to remember" hints at complex emotions that deserve more attention.

Exemplar: *Kyra's heart raced as memories of her people's lost artwork flooded back. She had dreamed of helping the settlers understand Calyran beauty, but her creation now threatened to destroy everything she had built in this new life.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in world-building and character creation. You weave together technology and art in an engaging way. To strengthen your story, try diving deeper into Kyra's personal connection to her people's art. You could explore more of her specific memories or hopes for bridging the gap between cultures. Adding more details about how the Calyran device works would make the world feel more real. Your ending leaves readers with questions about consequences - consider developing what exactly Kyra fears might happen if discovered.

Actionable task: Rewrite the paragraph about the Calyran device, focusing on describing how emotions specifically interact with the technology and what it feels like for Kyra to use it.

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**Score: 43/50**

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Section 2:

#1 The crowd gathered in hushed awe as the sculpture gleamed under Calyra's twin moons. The crystalline figure seemed to breathe, its angular edges capturing the moonlight in an ethereal display. No one knew who had crafted it. The settlers whispered theories, ranging from rogue artists to divine intervention.

#2 In the shadows of the market square, Kyra watched, her breath shallow. The figure was hers, a labour of love shaped in secrecy over countless nights in the obsidian caves beyond the settlement's borders. She had used forbidden tech—an ancient Calyran device capable of transforming matter with exquisite precision, guided by the emotions of its wielder. The settlers had banned such tools decades ago, deeming them too dangerous to remain in use, though they had never truly understood them.

#3 To the settlers, the Calyrans were a menace, their culture purged and reduced to little more than ~~rumors~~ [rumours] and warnings. Kyra, the last of her kind, knew the truth. Her people had once created wonders like this sculpture to celebrate harmony and life—not destruction. But she feared the settlers would never see it that way.

As murmurs grew louder, someone stepped closer, pointing to a faintly glowing symbol etched at the sculpture's base—the unmistakable mark of the Calyrans. Gasps rippled through the crowd.

"Who made this?" a voice demanded.

~~Kyra's heart raced. She had wanted them to remember her people's beauty, but her creation now risked exposing her.~~ [Kyra's heart thundered against her ribs. She had yearned for them to remember her people's beauty, but her creation now threatened to shatter the careful life she had built.] Should she step forward to reclaim her heritage, or vanish into the shadows, leaving her truth unspoken?

## INTERVIEW

### Section 1:

#1 "My family has taught me to face challenges with resilience and to take action..." Strengths:

- Clear connection between family influence and personal growth
- Specific example demonstrates practical application

Point for improvement: Limited exploration of personal transformation → You mention your parents' support but don't delve into how this experience changed your approach to other challenges. The phrase "their support and determination pushed me to succeed" could be expanded to show lasting impact.

***"Through their guidance, I developed a systematic approach to problem-solving that I now apply across various challenges - breaking down complex problems into manageable steps and tackling them with persistence."***

#2 "A tradition that really touches my is the habit instilled in my family..." Strengths:

- Rich detail about community service
- Clear link between tradition and values

Point for improvement: Mechanical description of activities → Your description focuses mainly on what you do rather than personal growth. The phrase "Service together deeply sets bonding" needs more emotional depth about how this tradition shapes your character.

***"Through serving meals and maintaining the gurudwara together, I've learned that true leadership begins with humility and putting others first - lessons that guide my daily interactions."***

#3 "My mom inspires me the most with her unwavering optimism..." Strengths:

- Personal anecdote effectively illustrates the point
- Clear connection between mother's teaching and personal growth

Point for improvement: Surface-level exploration of impact → While you mention learning about resilience, you don't explore how your mum's teachings influence your current decision-making. The phrase "finding beauty and hope" needs concrete examples.

***"Her optimism taught me to approach setbacks differently - instead of seeing rejection as failure, I now view it as valuable feedback for growth and improvement."***

■ Your answers would benefit from deeper reflection on how these family influences shape your current behaviour and decision-making. Try to draw more connections between past experiences and present actions. Add specific examples of how you apply these lessons in your daily life. You could expand your responses by including how these family values might influence your future goals and aspirations.

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**Score: 42/50**

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Section 2:

#1 My family has taught me to face challenges with resilience and to take action. They've shown me that nothing comes without effort. For example, when I struggled to improve my grades in a difficult subject, my parents didn't let me give up. Instead, they encouraged me to improve and practice the question over and over. My dad sat with me during study sessions and reminded me that persistence would pay off. It wasn't easy, but their support and determination pushed me to succeed. Now, I approach every challenge as something I can overcome with effort and focus.

#2 ~~A tradition that really touches my~~ [A tradition that really touches me] is the habit instilled in my family to visit the gurudwara every week to engage in community service. This habit is more than just a weekly routine; it's a way of reinforcing our shared values of selfless service, compassion, and humility. We serve by helping the people with the preparation and service of food, or by helping in the maintenance work of the temple. ~~Service together deeply sets bonding within the family~~ [Serving together strengthens the bonds within our family] and reminds us about important things in our life: kindness and helping others. This tradition puts us in touch not only with our spiritual roots but also with the greater good of the community, instilling a sense of purpose and fulfillment in all of us.

#3 My mom inspires me the most with her unwavering optimism. Even though she has had some tough times, she always stays positive and wise. Her philosophy is simple: "Every day is a fresh start." Watching her turn hardships into opportunities has shaped my outlook on life. When I got rejected for a leadership program, she made me look at it as an opportunity to grow. That mindset helped me reevaluate my goals and eventually achieve something even greater. From her, I've learned that resilience isn't just about enduring—it's about finding beauty and hope, even in the toughest circumstances.