

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "She traced her fingers along the sharp and jagged ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storms deep beneath her small, petite boat still whispered furtive secrets to those daring enough to listen."

Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details through touch and sound
- Strong metaphorical language with personification of storms

Weakness: Limited scene-setting → Your opening sentence focuses heavily on the map but doesn't ground readers in the main conflict of the storm. The phrase "storms deep beneath her small, petite boat" needs more context about the current weather conditions.

Exemplar: *The savage storm clouds gathered overhead as Elise traced her trembling fingers along the jagged ridges of her map, wondering if the depths below whispered secrets to those brave enough to listen.*

#2: "Elise looked forward and gasped. A demonic wave, of the deepest ocean blue towering kilometers over her, and still, building up in size, then crashing down, towards her and her small little boat, like shattering jewels in the night sky."

Strengths:

- Strong emotional response shown through action
- Creative use of simile with "shattering jewels"

Weakness: Choppy flow → Your sentences jump between ideas without smooth connections. The phrases "and still, building up in size" and "then crashing down" create a bumpy reading experience.

Exemplar: *Elise looked forward and gasped as a demonic wave towered above her, its deep ocean blue mass growing ever larger before it crashed down like shattering jewels in the night sky.*

#3: "Cerulean, aegean, and cobalt blue warped her sight, objects crashing into each other as the boat continued to swim downwards."

Strengths:

- Rich colour vocabulary
- Dynamic movement description

Weakness: Rushed pacing → Your description moves too quickly through this intense moment. The phrase "objects crashing into each other" needs more specific details about what these objects are.

Exemplar: *Cerulean, aegean, and cobalt blue swirled before her eyes as loose ropes, wooden crates, and navigation equipment crashed against the cabin walls while the boat plunged deeper.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating tension and atmosphere, but needs more development in its key moments. The sudden appearance of the speedboat feels too convenient and takes away from the built-up tension. You could strengthen your story by showing more of Elise's problem-solving skills during the crisis. Adding more details about her sailing experience and knowledge would make her survival more believable. Try focusing on her specific actions to save herself rather than relying on outside help.

Actionable task: Rewrite the ending sequence starting from when the wave hits, focusing on how Elise uses her skills and resources to survive rather than introducing a speedboat rescue.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 She traced her fingers along the sharp and jagged ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storms deep beneath her ~~small, petite~~ [small] boat still whispered furtive secrets to those daring enough to listen. #1 Elise felt the water hurl her boat up and down like a never-ending roller coaster. Nervousness punched her stomach as monstrous waves loomed, threatening to engulf her.

#2 Shivering from the iciness of the wind and water, Elise frantically traced the ragged map repeatedly with her calloused fingers, navigating her way through the relentless waves as her heart beat as loud as the thunder roaring above her. Her grip on the smooth and brisk leather steering wheel tightened, as her fingers turned blue, pouring all her strength and mind on turning it.

~~#2 Elise looked forward and gasped. A demonic wave, of the deepest ocean blue towering kilometers over her, and still, building up in size, then crashing down, towards her and her small little boat, like shattering jewels in the night sky. [Elise looked forward and gasped at the sight of a demonic wave. It loomed kilometres above her, its deepest ocean blue mass still building in size before crashing down towards her small boat like shattering jewels in the night sky.] She couldn't escape. Elise ran indoors, under the shelter of her cabin, as she watched in horror as the waves plummeted down, and the boat plunged beneath the surface.~~

Sinking, sinking.

#3 Into the abyss, Cerulean, aegean, and cobalt blue warped her sight, objects crashing into each other as the boat continued to swim downwards.

Elise braced herself, 'I'm gonna die' she thought, squeezing her eyelids shut. Then she felt a tug. Elise was no longer going down, but up, towards the surface again! She was confused but ~~celebrative~~ [celebratory] at the same time. The storm still raged but she was saved! A speedboat had just saved her!

□ WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph): Strengths:

- Vivid colour imagery creates an enchanting alien atmosphere
- Strong use of sensory details with the sunset description

Weakness: Limited world-building → Your opening focuses heavily on the statue and sunset, but misses opportunities to establish the alien setting. Phrases like "the city" and "the crowd" remain vague without distinctive alien elements that would make this world unique.

Exemplar: *In the soft glow of triple moons, the alien sunset painted New Zenith's crystalline spires in hues of hot pink, purple, and dark blue, casting an ethereal glow on the six-fingered beings gathered around the mysterious statue.*

#2 (Second paragraph): Strengths:

- Good build-up of tension through the little girl's actions
- Effective contrast between the chaotic crowd and the calm child

Weakness: Underdeveloped character portrayal → Your description of the little girl lacks personal details that would help readers connect with her. "Calm and silent" tells us her state but doesn't show why she's different from others or what makes her special.

Exemplar: *The little girl, Aria, stood calm and silent amidst the commotion, her silver eyes fixed on the statue as if drawn by an invisible force that only she could feel.*

#3 (Final paragraph): Strengths:

- Intriguing reveal of the mysterious symbol
- Strong hook for continuation of the story

Weakness: Rushed revelation → Your ending introduces a significant plot element about a creature that brought chaos, but doesn't give enough context. The symbol's description and its connection to past events feel rushed.

Exemplar: *The symbol pulsed with an eerie green light - a perfect circle adorned with intricate, snake-like curves, and an 'S' coiled grotesquely in its centre. Every adult in the crowd recognised it instantly: the mark of the Shadow Serpent, a creature whose rampage five years ago had left half the city's crystal towers in ruins.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating an atmospheric alien world, but needs more specific details to truly transport readers there. The mysterious statue and the little girl's reaction create intrigue, but you could deepen the story by adding more unique alien elements throughout. Think about how an alien city would differ from Earth cities - from its architecture to its inhabitants. The symbol's revelation at the end offers a great hook, but you could make it more impactful by dropping subtle hints earlier in the story.

Actionable task: Rewrite the first paragraph focusing on adding three specific details about the alien city and its inhabitants that make them distinctly non-human.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 In the soft glow of the alien sunset that painted ~~the city~~ [this crystalline metropolis] in hues of hot pink, purple, and dark blue, casting an ethereal glow on ~~the crowd~~ [the multi-limbed citizens] that gathered around a statue that stood in the middle of the city. ~~Loud gasps from the crowd erupted.~~ [Gasps erupted from the gathered crowd.] The statue was carved with astonishing precision, the stone figure, with its meticulously sculpted nose, eyes, and mouth, held the crowd in awe. Little did they know, this masterpiece was the creation of their greatest fear.

#2 Chatter arose throughout the crowd, mingling confusion and curiosity. However, ~~a little girl, calm and silent amidst the commotion, standing~~ [a little girl stood calm and silent amidst the commotion,] mesmerized by the stony build of the statue. The crowd gasped once again as she slowly stepped forward towards the statue. As she approached, she gently placed her hand on the chest of a stone lion, feeling the cool, rough surface against her palm. The crowd held its breath.

#3 Where the girl had touched the statue, a tiny symbol[appeared:] a circle adorned with intricate, snake-like curves, and an 'S' coiled grotesquely in its ~~center~~ [centre]. It was the mark of a creature that had once brought chaos to the city, and now, it seemed, it was back.

Slowly, The girl looked up at the striking features on the face of the figure, and lifted her hand. Suddenly, the girl's eyes widened with fear, tears welling up. A wail erupted, breaking the silence that had gripped the city. She fled, disappearing into the throng. Panic erupted as the crowd surged forward, desperate to see what had frightened the child.

□ INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph about parents' influence) Strengths:

- Clear connection between the lesson and real-life example
- Effectively shows personal growth through the guitar competition story

Weakness: Limited reflection on challenges → Your response focuses mainly on earning money but could explore more types of challenges your parents helped you overcome. The phrase "if I want something, I have to work for it" could be expanded to show how this mindset helped in other situations.

Exemplar: *My parents' emphasis on hard work has helped me tackle various challenges, from academic difficulties to personal goals. For instance, when I struggled with difficult guitar pieces, their encouragement to persist helped me improve gradually until I could compete successfully.*

#2 (Noodle tradition paragraph) Strengths:

- Good connection between cultural tradition and family bonding
- Clear explanation of the tradition's significance

Weakness: Surface-level emotional connection → Your description of enjoying noodles could dig deeper into specific memories or feelings. The phrase "I like this because apart from getting to eat my favourite food" could explore more meaningful emotional aspects of this family tradition.

Exemplar: *These family gatherings around noodles create precious moments where we share stories, celebrate achievements, and strengthen our bonds while honouring our Chinese heritage.*

#3 (Grandfather's influence paragraph) Strengths:

- Powerful use of grandfather's quote about rice
- Clear link between his teachings and personal growth

Weakness: Limited examples of impact → Your response could provide more specific instances of how these lessons changed your behaviour. The phrase "I have tried my best not to waste a farmer's hard work" could include concrete examples of how you apply this principle.

Exemplar: *My grandfather's wisdom about food waste has transformed how I view resources. Now, I carefully plan my meals, use leftovers creatively, and even started a small vegetable garden to better appreciate farmers' efforts.*

■ Your responses show genuine appreciation for family values and cultural traditions. To make them more impactful, try sharing more specific examples and deeper reflections on how these experiences have shaped your character and daily decisions. Consider expanding each answer to include both immediate and long-term effects of these family influences on your life choices and personal growth.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

1. How has your family shaped the way you approach challenges in life? Can you give a specific example?~~My parents have shaped~~ [My parents have shaped] the way I approach many challenges in life. They have always told me that if I want something, I have to work for it and deserve it. Nothing is completely free. ~~This has been proven before,~~ [This principle proved true when], like once, I really wanted to buy something, however, I did not have a lot of pocket money. After obtaining a lot of money from winning various guitar competitions by working hard, I was able to buy the thing I wanted! This made me happier than If I had asked my parents to buy it for me in the first place because it really made me feel like I deserved it! #1

2. What is one tradition or habit in your family that you cherish the most, and why? One tradition or habit I enjoy in my family that I cherish is that when it is someone's birthday or other significant event, our whole family eats noodles. This is because noodles can be considered good luck on a special event in China, so we do this to wish a family member or the family good luck for the year! ~~I like this because apart from getting to eat my favourite food,~~ [This tradition is special to me not only because noodles are my favourite food, but] It also means that we are caring for each other and upholding our cultural traditions too! #2

3. Who in your family inspires you the most, and what lessons have you learned from them? The person that inspires me the most in my family is my grandfather. Even though I don't see him very often in person since he ~~lived~~ [lives] in China, he always teaches me valuable life lessons whenever I see him. One of the lessons he has taught me is to never waste food. His quote is 'Each grain of rice on your plate is a farmer's gruelling hours of work'. From then on, I have tried my best not to waste a farmer's hard work. He has also taught me to study hard and focus on what I enjoy and not waste my time. He always encourages me, saying that he hopes that I will be a richer person than him when I grow up. I hope that I will teach others valuable lessons in the future just like how he has taught me! #3