

WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "The sun scintillating and balmy drew lofty shadows over him, whilst camouflaging subtly into the kaleidoscopic melt of the sunshine, as if it were a canvas adorned with sublime hues of crimson and indigo." Strengths:

- Rich sensory details that paint a vivid picture
- Creative use of metaphor comparing sunshine to a canvas

Weakness: Overloaded Description

→ Your sentence packs too many descriptive words together, making it hard to follow the main idea. Words like "scintillating," "kaleidoscopic," and "sublime" crowd the imagery.

Exemplar: *The sun cast long shadows around him as it melted into the horizon, painting the sky in deep crimson and indigo hues.*

#2: "Lucas hastily uncorked the jar, his heart speeding. The jar enclosed a folded piece of paper inside." Strengths:

- Clear action sequence
- Shows character's excitement

Weakness: Limited Emotional Depth → Your writing tells us Lucas's heart is speeding but doesn't fully show his feelings about finding this mysterious object.

Exemplar: *Lucas's hands trembled as he uncorked the jar, his mind racing with possibilities about what secrets the mysterious container might hold.*

#3: "The note was covered in delicate, looping symbols that shimmered like they had a life of their own." Strengths:

- Intriguing description of the mysterious writing
- Effective use of simile

Weakness: Underdeveloped Mystery → Your description of the symbols needs more details about their appearance to build suspense.

Exemplar: *The note was filled with flowing symbols that seemed to dance across the page - some curved like waves, others sharp like ancient runes, each one gleaming with an otherworldly shine.*

■ Your story creates an interesting mystery but needs stronger emotional connection to Lucas's character. Try adding more of his thoughts and reactions throughout the scene. You could also build more tension by describing the setting's isolation more effectively. Adding specific details about how the mysterious message affects Lucas would make the story more engaging.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the paragraph where Lucas discovers the jar, focusing on including his specific thoughts and emotional reactions to each new detail he uncovers.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

On the last day of summer, Lucas found a glass jar buried in the sand, and inside was a message written in a language he couldn't understand. The air felt thick with the salty tang of the ocean and the weight of the waning season. ~~The sun scintillating and balmy drew lofty shadows over him, whilst camouflaging subtly into the kaleidoscopic melt of the sunshine, as if it were a canvas adorned with sublime hues of crimson and indigo.~~ [The sun cast long shadows across the beach, melting into a kaleidoscopic display of crimson and indigo, like an artist's canvas come alive.] The water, reflecting the ethereal tunes, rippled gently with the fading light. Lucas's fingers worked aimlessly through the grains as he built a final sandcastle, the tower crumbling with every attempt, but then, something unusual caught his touch—something solid, cool, and oddly smooth. It wasn't a rock, nor was it a shell, but a small glass jar, its surface worn and cloudy with age. ~~Lucas hastily uncorked the jar, his heart speeding.~~ [Lucas's fingers trembled as he uncorked the jar, his heart pounding against his ribs.] The jar enclosed a folded piece of paper inside. ~~The note was covered in delicate, looping symbols that shimmered like they had a life of their own.~~ [The note revealed delicate, looping symbols that shimmered mysteriously in the fading light, each character seeming to pulse with its own inner life.] The contents were indecipherable, too strange to be just gibberish, but too familiar to be random. The ocean breeze stirred up the touch of the paper, almost being alive. Lucas shivered, looking around as if expecting someone to be watching, but there was nothing—only the endless stretch of the beach, the crashing waves, and the haunting whisper of the wind.

WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "Every midnight, the stars above the village flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice. He sat on the edge of the porch, a blanket loosely draped over his shoulders, eyes fixed upon the heavens."

Strengths:

- Your opening creates immediate intrigue with the mysterious stellar phenomenon
- Your sensory details effectively set the scene and mood

Weakness: Limited context → Your opening would benefit from establishing why this nightly occurrence matters specifically to Liam. The phrase "but only Liam seemed to notice" needs more depth about his unique perspective.

Exemplar: *Every midnight, as the village slumbered in peaceful ignorance, Liam alone witnessed the stars above flicker into darkness. He sat on the edge of the porch, a blanket loosely draped over his shoulders, his eyes fixed upon the heavens with the same burning curiosity that had consumed him since childhood.*

#2 "His father used to tell Liam he thought too much, always chasing after answers that weren't there. 'The stars will not save you,' he would say, his voice heavy with the weight of his own unspoken regrets."

Strengths:

- Your dialogue reveals character dynamics effectively
- Your inclusion of the father's regrets adds emotional depth

Weakness: Underdeveloped relationship dynamics → Your portrayal of the father-son relationship needs more concrete details. The phrase "unspoken regrets" begs for more specific emotional context.

Exemplar: *His father's warnings echoed in his mind: "The stars will not save you, son," he would say, his voice heavy with the weight of his own failed dreams of discovery. Yet each night, Liam returned to his vigil, determined to prove that some mysteries were worth pursuing.*

#3 "The village rested easy in its ignorance. People were content in their simple lives; the lives were in the familiar paths they tracked each and every day."

Strengths:

- Your contrast between Liam and the village creates tension
- Your metaphor of "familiar paths" effectively conveys routine

Weakness: Shallow characterisation of village life → Your description of village life lacks specific details that would make the contrast with Liam more meaningful. The phrase "simple lives" needs more concrete examples.

Exemplar: *While the villagers found comfort in their daily routines - tending gardens, mending fences, and sharing evening meals - Liam yearned for something beyond their well-worn paths.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in building mystery and intrigue around Liam's unique perspective. To deepen your story, focus on developing the emotional stakes of Liam's nightly observations. Think about what he specifically hopes to discover and what he risks by pursuing this mystery. Consider adding more specific details about how his obsession affects his daily life and relationships.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the passage focusing on the emotional and practical consequences of Liam's nightly vigils - how does it affect his relationships, his daily life, and his place in the village?

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

Every midnight, the stars above the village flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice. ~~He sat on the edge of the porch, a blanket loosely draped over his shoulders, eyes fixed upon the heavens.~~ [He sat on the edge of the porch, a blanket loosely draped over his shoulders, his eyes fixed upon the heavens.] #1 The timed flicker came quickly, but vanished at that same pace, as if it were a breath held too long. The village, sound asleep, would never see it. But Liam always did.

For as long as he could remember, ~~Liam had watched the stars, utterly convinced they told him something he just could not quite understand.~~ [Liam had watched the stars, utterly convinced they were telling him something he could not quite understand.] #2 His father used to tell Liam he thought too much, always chasing after answers that weren't there. "The stars will not save you," he would say, his voice heavy with the weight of his own unspoken regrets.

~~The village rested easy in its ignorance. People were content in their simple lives; the lives were in the familiar paths they tracked each and every day. [The village rested easy in its ignorance, its people content with their simple lives, following the familiar paths they tracked each and every day.] #3 But Liam could not forget the flicker. It felt like a sign. A warning. Or maybe an invitation. He was not sure. He was sure, however, that the stars were saying something, and it had to be him to cipher it [He was sure, however, that the stars were saying something, and it had to be him who would decipher it.]~~

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 "For me, a good student is much more than good grades. Being a good student means development of curiosity, embracing challenges, and learning from failure."

Strengths:

- Opens with a personal perspective that challenges conventional views
- Effectively introduces key qualities beyond academic achievement

Weakness: Limited development of ideas → Your initial statement about good grades needs more depth to show how curiosity and embracing challenges specifically contribute to being a good student. The connection between these qualities remains unclear.

I believe that achieving good grades, while important, is just one aspect of being a good student. More significantly, a good student demonstrates curiosity by asking thoughtful questions, tackles challenging concepts head-on, and views failures as valuable learning opportunities.

#2 "I feel as if put upon me when someone is treated unfairly, no matter the situation. I first try to assess the circumstances and the whole context, then intervene if it's safe and appropriate."

Strengths:

- Shows empathy and careful consideration before acting
- Demonstrates responsible decision-making

Weakness: Awkward phrasing and incomplete thoughts → Your response starts with unclear phrasing "feel as if put upon me" and lacks specific examples of how you would assess situations. The response needs more detail about your decision-making process.

When I witness unfair treatment, I feel personally responsible to help. I carefully evaluate the situation by considering all perspectives and circumstances before deciding how to intervene safely and effectively.

#3 "If I had the power to meet any historical figure, it would be Sir Isaac Newton, the maestro who discovered a ground-bounding force, known as gravity."

Strengths:

- Shows genuine interest in a significant historical figure
- Demonstrates knowledge of Newton's contributions

Weakness: Surface-level reasoning → Your answer focuses mainly on Newton's achievements without deeply exploring why meeting him would be meaningful to you personally. The description needs more personal connection.

I would be honoured to meet Sir Isaac Newton, whose revolutionary discovery of gravity fundamentally changed our understanding of the universe. His brilliant mind and diverse interests inspire me to explore connections between different fields of knowledge.

■ Your answers show good potential but need more detailed examples and personal experiences to make them more compelling. Try to expand your responses by including specific scenarios or situations that illustrate your points. For instance, when discussing being a good student, share a personal experience that demonstrates how you've embraced challenges. Your answers could benefit from more depth while maintaining their authenticity.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 ~~For me, a good student is much more than good grades. Being a good student means development of curiosity, embracing challenges, and learning from failure.~~ [For me, being a good student extends far beyond achieving good grades. It encompasses developing curiosity, embracing challenges, and learning from failure.] A good student relates themselves with the course material, bringing their knowledge learned in their classroom, to the real world, seeking chances to grow intellectually and personally. Another distinctive aspect of a good student is their self-control and awareness of their surroundings. This means that they both aren't distracted and don't coax others into being so. Ultimately, it's all about instilling a kind of mindset in the way of lifelong learning, whereby success is defined not by attainment but by growth.

#2 ~~I feel as if put upon me when someone is treated unfairly, no matter the situation.~~ [I feel personally responsible to act when I witness unfair treatment in any situation.] I first try to ~~access~~ [assess] the circumstances and the whole context, then intervene if it's safe and appropriate. It can be as basic as supporting the affected person with words of comfort, a listening ear, or standing with them in their battle for fair treatment. If the conflict is systemic or larger than I can handle, I would advocate for change and justice through peaceful means, including writing, petitions or ~~organizing~~ [organising]. For me, justice isn't only a moral principle but a responsibility held by everyone.

#3 If I had the power to meet any historical figure, it would be Sir Isaac Newton, the ~~maestro~~ [master] who discovered a ~~ground-bounding~~ [ground-binding] force, known as gravity. To do this, Sir Isaac Newton had to be an expert in mathematics, physics and astronomy, while also giving some time for his interests, being alchemy, mysticism and theology, thus making him have a large spectrum of knowledge. Keeping this in mind, I would ask him how he managed his time across multiple places of interest. I'd also ask him what advice he would give to modern thinkers who feel confined by the ~~specializations~~ [specialisations] that define contemporary knowledge. His perspective on integrating mathematics and science could offer valuable insights for today's complex world.