WEEK 1 - 8th January Homework: Year 6 Scholarship Specialisation Final Sprint

WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "Upon the plain, bleak oakwood, lay an intricate carpet, resting as if it were a peacock, spreading its soft, long, wide arms to cover a large portion of the weird coloured oakwood floor."

Strengths:

- Creative use of personification comparing the carpet to a peacock
- Vivid sensory details that help create a clear mental image

Weakness: Repetitive word choice → You've used "oakwood" twice in the same sentence, which makes your writing less engaging. The phrase "weird coloured" is also quite vague.

Exemplar: Upon the plain, bleak floorboards lay an intricate carpet, spreading its soft, expansive form like a peacock's plumage across the rich, antiqued surface.

#2: "Its knowledge of trigonometry and calculus excels, with its intricate patterns of different shapes tessellating and matching and glimmering in the luminescent lights."

Strengths:

- Clever connection between mathematics and carpet patterns
- Strong vocabulary choices like "tessellating" and "luminescent"

Weakness: Unclear connection between ideas \rightarrow The link between maths and the carpet patterns needs more development. The word "and" appears too many times.

Exemplar: The carpet's intricate patterns displayed mathematical precision, its shapes tessellating perfectly whilst glimmering under luminescent lights.

#3: "The carpet is an oasis in the dull, stained wood of the library floor, with its intricate patterns like the books around it."

Strengths:

- Effective metaphor comparing the carpet to an oasis
- Good connection between the carpet and its surroundings

Weakness: Limited development of comparison \rightarrow The comparison between patterns and books needs more detail to help readers understand the connection.

Exemplar: The carpet stands as an oasis amidst the dull, stained wood, its intricate patterns telling stories as rich as the leather-bound volumes surrounding it.

■ Your writing shows promise in creating vivid imagery and using creative comparisons. You could make your piece stronger by developing your metaphors more fully. Try to expand on how the carpet's patterns relate to both mathematics and literature. Your descriptions would benefit from more specific details about the carpet's appearance and its relationship to its surroundings.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the paragraph focusing specifically on developing the comparison between the carpet's patterns and the mathematics you mentioned, including specific examples of geometric shapes and how they connect to form the overall design.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

#1 Upon the plain, bleak oakwood, lay an intricate carpet, resting as if it were a peacoek, spreading its soft, long, wide arms to cover a large portion of the weird coloured oakwood floor [resting like a peacock, its soft, expansive form spreading across the rich, antiqued floorboards]. The floor is a mess of tree bark, and swindling [swirling] circles, but the carpet is a soft eden. It's bumps [bumps are] like an old man's skin, time worn, and crusty. #2 Its knowledge of trigonometry and calculus excels, with its intricate patterns of different shapes tessellating and matching and glimmering in the luminescent lights [Its intricate patterns display mathematical precision, shapes tessellating perfectly whilst glimmering under luminescent lights]. Its vibrant colours are like the changing colours of a chameleon, with each swirl of majestic beauty having a delightful trait of unexpectedness.

Strokes of blue match up beautifully with diamonds of pastel pink. This carpet has been passed down by [through] generation on [after] generation until it has reached this library. This carpet seems as if it does not age, with its everlasting colours, never surrendering to the war-torn environment around it. #3 The carpet is an oasis in the dull, stained wood of the library floor, with its intricate patterns like the books around it [The carpet stands as an oasis amidst the dull, stained wood, its intricate patterns telling stories as rich as the leather-bound volumes surrounding it]. Interesting, exciting, and never dull. In this room of solitary confinement, the carpet lays, enduring the deafening silence of the floor.

WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "Deep beneath the city, where no light ever touched, Aiden discovered a hidden door that pulsed with an eerie blue glow. As Aiden prodded into the door, as he opened it, it creaked like the sound of an old man sneezing."

Strengths:

- Your vivid setting creates a mysterious atmosphere
- Your use of sensory details helps readers imagine the scene

Weakness: Repetitive character name usage → You've used "Aiden" multiple times in close succession, which makes your writing feel choppy. The phrase "As Aiden prodded into the door, as he opened it" shows this repetition.

Exemplar: Deep beneath the city, where no light ever touched, Aiden discovered a hidden door that pulsed with an eerie blue glow. As he cautiously approached and opened it, the door creaked like an old man sneezing.

#2: "Meanwhile, a singular golden ray of refracted sunlight shone on his back, seemingly tickling his back like the sensation of a soft sheep's wool."

Strengths:

- Your creative comparison to sheep's wool adds texture
- Your description engages multiple senses

Weakness: Word redundancy → You've repeated "back" twice in the same sentence, which makes your writing less smooth. The phrase "on his back, seemingly tickling his back" shows this.

Exemplar: Meanwhile, a singular golden ray of refracted sunlight shone upon him, tickling his skin like soft sheep's wool.

#3: "Towering oak trees covered in snake like vines and eroded bark, arched toward him as if beckoning him forward, their presence comforting."

Strengths:

- Your personification of trees creates engaging imagery
- Your description builds a clear picture

Weakness: Missing connecting words → Your sentence needs better connection between ideas. The parts about "snake like vines" and "their presence comforting" feel disconnected.

Exemplar: Towering oak trees, covered in snake-like vines and eroded bark, arched toward him as if beckoning him forward with their comforting presence.

■ Your writing shows good imagination in creating a magical portal story. To make your piece stronger, try building more tension before Aiden enters the new world. You could add more details about his feelings and thoughts as he approaches the door. Your story ends quite quickly consider extending the scene in the new world to help readers feel more invested in Aiden's journey.

Actionable task: Rewrite the final paragraph focusing on Aiden's emotional journey as he explores the new world, including his specific thoughts and reactions to at least three different things he sees.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

Deep beneath the city, where no light ever touched, Aiden discovered a hidden door that pulsed with an eerie blue glow. As Aiden prodded into the door, as he opened it [As he cautiously approached and opened the door], it creaked like the sound of an old man sneezing. The eerie light was like an Anglerfish, luring Aiden to it, while also causing Aiden to fall under a trance after glaring [him to fall into a trance after staring] at the sapphire light.

As Aiden grasped the door, he felt the slug like [slug-like] wood of the door dig into him, with the door's metal knob scraping sharply like the high pitched screech of a bat. Meanwhile, a singular golden ray of refracted sunlight shone on his back, seemingly tickling his back [Meanwhile, a singular golden ray of refracted sunlight shone upon him, tickling his skin] like the sensation of a soft sheep's wool.

However, this "golden" ray of sunlight was not able to be seen by Aiden. As Aiden opened the crusty door, Aiden saw [he saw] a different reality. Towering oak trees covered in snake like vines and eroded bark, arched toward him as if beckoning him forward, their presence comforting [Towering oak trees, covered in snake-like vines and eroded bark, arched toward him as if beckoning him forward with their comforting presence]. Aiden was amazed by the marvellous sight, with his eyes gleaming in excitement to see more, but the more Aiden saw, the more other things diminished. Aiden thought as if he was [He felt as though he were] in some kind of optical

illusion eenter [centre], with his brain being twisted, so without further to do [further ado], he exited the reality, bringing him back to the ocean, where no light ever touched.

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph about community improvement) Strengths:

- Clear prioritisation of education as the primary focus
- Shows understanding of how education impacts long-term community development

Weakness: Limited development of ideas \rightarrow Your response would benefit from explaining specifically how you would improve schools. Your phrase "donating a lot to schools" is vague. Consider what specific educational programmes or facilities need funding.

Exemplar: I would allocate funds to upgrade science laboratories, establish after-school learning programmes, and provide additional learning support for struggling students.

#2 (Conflict resolution response) Strengths:

- Good emphasis on emotional control
- Demonstrates understanding of two-way communication

Weakness: Surface-level strategies → Your response focuses mainly on "staying calm" but doesn't explore concrete conflict resolution steps. The phrase "show my opinions" needs more detail about how you would actually resolve the disagreement.

Exemplar: After listening to their perspective, I would suggest we work together to find a compromise that addresses both our concerns, perhaps by creating a shared action plan.

#3 (Teaching approach) Strengths:

- Shows enthusiasm for interactive teaching
- Demonstrates awareness of student perspectives

Weakness: Limited teaching methodology → Your response could include more specific teaching activities. The phrase "show them with my own examples" needs elaboration about what types of examples and how you would engage students.

Exemplar: I would guide students through hands-on coding projects, allowing them to create their own simple programmes while I provide step-by-step support.

■ Your answers would benefit from more specific examples and detailed explanations. When discussing community improvement, consider including multiple areas beyond just education and charity. For conflict resolution, include specific steps you would take to reach a solution. In your teaching response, outline specific activities you would use to engage students.

Actionable Task: Rewrite your community improvement paragraph by adding three specific ways you would use the money to enhance education in schools, including detailed examples of programmes or facilities that need funding.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

If I was given a large sum of money to improve my community, #1 I would first improve schools, by donating a lot to schools, [I would first improve schools by investing in educational resources] to improve education standards in my community. This would ensure everyone in my community would be able to study well, and have a tremendously better chance to fulfil their true potential, and do well later on in life. Secondly, I would donate to local charities, such as Lions Club to promote humanitarian services around the community. This would improve the environment and it would also help people in need, which are people who are homeless, or are disabled, or many more.

#2 If I was in a conflict with a classmate or team mate, the first thing I would do is to stay calm and take a deep breath. In this situation, staying calm is key, so that you can think clearly, and make a good response that does not enrage your classmate or teammate even more, but also still brings your point across. Next, I would listen out to their side of the story, ask questions and show my opinions. [Next, I would carefully listen to their perspective, ask clarifying questions, and share my viewpoint respectfully.] The way I would show my opinions would still be nice, letting my teammate or classmate not get more angry. By doing this, I stay positive, without making them even more angry, while still getting to my point.

#3 If I were asked to teach a class for a day, the subject I would choose to teach would be digital technologies. I would delightfully teach digital technologies not in a standard way, by scraping off some chalk on a chalkboard, using up some ink on a whiteboard, or showing an educational video that teaches the topic. [I would enthusiastically teach digital technologies using an interactive approach, moving beyond traditional methods like chalkboards, whiteboards, or educational videos.] I would use my computer, and show them with my own examples on how to do things. Doing this would allow me to have the perspective of my students, allowing me to see what areas might be hard to do on their computers.