

WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "Lucas peeked menacingly into the jar, awaiting a response, as if it were magic. His skinny fingers ran across the smooth surface of the bottle, with every small bump like an inscribed letter to him sent by the gods."

Strengths:

- Your vivid sensory details create a clear image of Lucas's interaction with the jar
- Your use of figurative language comparing bumps to divine messages adds depth

Weakness: Unclear emotional tone → Your description shifts from "menacingly" to a more wonder-filled tone, making Lucas's feelings about the jar unclear. "Menacingly" doesn't match with the magical, curious mood you build in the rest of the passage.

Exemplar: *Lucas peered intently into the jar with wonder, awaiting a response as if it were magic.*

#2: "Lucas gently placed the bottle back down on his table, but as he did, an eerie yellow glow came out of the bottle. Lucas thought this could be a remnant of the past"

Strengths:

- Your introduction of the supernatural element creates suspense
- Your pacing helps build tension in the scene

Weakness: Repetitive character naming → You use "Lucas" twice in close succession, which makes your writing sound choppy.

Exemplar: *Gently placing the bottle down on his table, he watched in amazement as an eerie yellow glow emerged, possibly a remnant of the past.*

#3: "Inside was a scroll, had he touched it though, it vanished into the darkness, forever keeping him waiting for an honorable, worthy response."

Strengths:

- Your ending creates mystery and leaves readers wondering
- Your word choice ("honorable, worthy") adds weight to the moment

Weakness: Rushed conclusion → Your final moment happens too quickly, with the scroll vanishing before readers can fully grasp its significance.

Exemplar: *Inside lay an ancient scroll, but the moment his fingers brushed its surface, it dissolved into shadow, leaving him to wonder what worthy secrets it held.*

■ Your story has an interesting magical element and creates curiosity, but needs deeper development of Lucas's character and his connection to the mysterious message. You could add more details about why this family secret matters to Lucas specifically. Try showing his emotional journey from initial discovery to final disappointment more clearly.

Actionable task: Rewrite the scene where Lucas first discovers the message, focusing on his specific reasons for being interested in his family's past and what finding these answers would mean to him.

Score: 39/50

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. ~~Lucas pecked menacingly into the jar, awaiting a response, as if it were magic.~~ [Lucas peered intently into the jar with wonder, awaiting a response as if it were magic.] His skinny fingers ran across the smooth surface of the bottle, with every small bump like an inscribed letter to him sent by the gods. #1

Lucas held the bottle with his smooth fingers, ~~with his bony body highlighting his immense need to eat more.~~ [his thin frame casting a shadow in the fading light.] Lucas carefully looked at the letter inside, carefully trying to decipher this generously jumbled code.

As he peeked inside the bottle, his surroundings became obsolete to him, ~~Lucas gently placed the bottle back down on his table, but as he did, an eerie yellow glow came out of the bottle.~~ [Gently placing the bottle down on his table, he watched in amazement as an eerie yellow glow emerged from within.] Lucas thought this could be a remnant of the past, with his passion to learn more excessively exciting him. #2 The jar said "Open the jar once more to discover the secrets of your family's past." After a moment, he opened the bottle. ~~Inside was a scroll, had he touched it though, it vanished into the darkness, forever keeping him waiting for an honorable, worthy response.~~ [Inside lay an ancient scroll, but the moment his fingers brushed its surface, it dissolved into shadow, leaving him to wonder what worthy secrets it held.] #3

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. Everyday as he watched through his narrow, silver coated glasses, he began to ponder more on this relationship with him."

Strengths:

- You've created an intriguing opening that immediately draws readers in
- Your use of specific timing details adds mystery to the scene

Weakness: Missing context and unclear relationship reference → Your mention of "this relationship with him" leaves readers wondering who "him" refers to. The connection between Liam and the stars needs more development.

Exemplar: *Every midnight, the stars above the village flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice. As he watched through his narrow, silver-coated glasses each night, he began to wonder why he was the only one who shared this secret with the stars.*

#2: "Everyday Liam wore jeans with specks of gold, his t-shirt was bright red with white stars, just like the ones he could see in the sky."

Strengths:

- You've created a nice parallel between Liam's clothing and the stars
- Your description helps readers visualise Liam's character

Weakness: Limited character depth → Your description focuses solely on Liam's outfit without showing how it connects to his personality or the story's plot.

Exemplar: *Every day, Liam chose his favourite jeans with specks of gold and his bright red t-shirt with white stars. These clothes made him feel closer to the mysterious night sky he loved to watch.*

#3: "But one day, when Liam went out to gaze at the stars, he didn't come back. His mum was extremely worried, but when she came out to find Liam, Liam was lying on the floor as if he were lifeless."

Strengths:

- You've created tension and suspense
- Your ending brings an unexpected twist

Weakness: Rushed conclusion → Your ending moves too quickly from Liam not returning to being found, without showing what happened during this important moment.

Exemplar: *One night, when Liam went to watch the stars, time seemed to stop. His mum grew worried when he didn't respond to her calls, and when she finally found him, he lay motionless on the ground, his silver-coated glasses reflecting the empty night sky.*

■ Your story has a fascinating premise about a young boy's unique connection with the stars. You could make your story stronger by adding more details about why only Liam can see the stars flickering. Try showing more of Liam's feelings throughout the story. You might want to build up the ending more slowly to create more excitement.

Actionable task: Rewrite the ending paragraph focusing on what happens between the moment Liam goes missing and when his mum finds him - include his thoughts and feelings during this time.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 Every midnight, the stars above the village flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice. ~~Everyday~~ [Every day] as he watched through his narrow, silver ~~coated~~ [silver-coated] glasses, ~~he began to ponder more on this relationship with him~~ [he wondered about his special connection to the night sky].

#2 ~~Everyday~~ [Every day] Liam wore jeans with specks of gold, his t-shirt was bright red with white stars, just like the ones he could see in the sky. They shined just like his outfit. ~~Everyday~~ [Every day] Liam ~~wore~~ [dressed in] jeans with specks of gold, his t-shirt was bright red with white stars, just like the ones he could see in the sky.

~~Everyday~~ [Every day], he asked his mum, but through his dry lips, he was not convincing enough. One day, his mother came out to look at midnight, but nothing happened to her. "See?" said Liam. His mum could not see anything change though, and she went back to her room to sleep. Disappointed Liam went back to his tiny little hut, where he began to try to figure out what had been happening. "Am I hallucinating?" he thought.

#3 But one day, when Liam went out to gaze at the stars, he didn't come back. His mum was extremely worried, but when she came out to find Liam, Liam was lying on the floor as if he were

lifeless. Liam quickly stood up, with a jolt of excitement, and ~~to his mother's surprise~~ [to his mother's surprise], he said "~~today~~ [tonight] I didn't see the stars."

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 "Being a good student to me means that I am a cooperative learner in class, I am open-minded, I am determined, and I am resilient."

Strengths:

- Clear introduction of key qualities with specific examples
- Good use of personal voice showing self-reflection

Weakness: Repetitive sentence structure → Multiple uses of "I am" makes your response sound mechanical. Your description would be more engaging if you varied how you expressed these qualities.

Exemplar: ***Being a good student means demonstrating cooperation in class, maintaining an open mind towards new ideas, showing determination in my studies, and bouncing back from challenges with resilience.***

#2 "If you suddenly run into the 'battle' you might find it gets worse and worse as seconds tick by. But if you are just a simple bystander, the victim will never be able to recover."

Strengths:

- Shows thoughtful consideration of consequences
- Demonstrates empathy and social awareness

Weakness: Unclear connection between ideas → Your two sentences present contrasting scenarios but don't clearly show how they relate to your planned response to unfair treatment.

Exemplar: *While rushing into a conflict might escalate the situation, staying passive as a bystander prevents helping the person being treated unfairly. Instead, I would calmly approach the situation to offer support.*

#3 "The question that I would ask him would be 'what caused you to keep on believing in yourself even though you knew the punishment'"

Strengths:

- Shows understanding of historical context
- Demonstrates interest in personal motivation

Weakness: Limited development of reasoning → Your question could better explore why this particular aspect of Copernicus interests you and what you hope to learn from his answer.

Exemplar: *I would ask Copernicus, 'What gave you the courage to maintain your scientific beliefs despite facing serious consequences? Your answer would help me understand how to stand up for truth in challenging situations.'*

■ Your answers show good basic understanding of each question, but could benefit from more detailed examples and personal connections. When discussing being a good student, try sharing a specific time when you demonstrated these qualities. For the unfair treatment scenario, consider adding what you would do after helping the victim, like reporting to teachers. Your Copernicus answer could explore how his experience relates to modern-day situations you face.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

1. What does being a good student mean to you? ~~Being a good student to me means that I am a cooperative learner in class, I am open-minded, I am determined, and I am resilient.~~ [As a good student, I strive to be a cooperative learner in class, maintain an open mind, show determination, and demonstrate resilience.] I believe that these are qualities that are a necessity in a good student. ~~Being a good student is a quality that is not just being smart, but it is also about being determined.~~ [Being a good student goes beyond academic intelligence – it requires determination and perseverance.] For example, if we have an assignment that we have 2 weeks to finish within and I haven't finished it, then I will use our study time to finish it. Good students will always try their hardest in everything, and will always do the best they can. That's what it means to be a good student to me.

2. What do you do when you see someone being treated unfairly? If I saw a student that was being treated unfairly, I would always try to help. This is because everybody serves a part in the community, and without people doing this, the priceless values beholden by our community would be destroyed. The first thing I will do, (and the most important thing to do) is [would be] to stay calm. ~~If you suddenly run into the 'battle' you might find it gets worse and worse as seconds tick by. But if you are just a simple bystander, the victim will never be able to recover.~~ [Rushing into a conflict might worsen the situation, yet remaining a passive bystander prevents the victim from receiving help.] I would try to find a spot for the victim to rest, and then ask if they require anything like medical treatment or water. The most important thing is to not anger the person who started it, as they will never accept it. ~~If we do these things though, we will be able to help the victim get out of the situation, and it will give a good reputation to the person who started it.~~ [By following these steps carefully, we can help the victim while avoiding further conflict.]

3. If you could meet any historical figure, who would it be, and what would you ask them? If I could meet any historical figure, it would be Nicolaus Copernicus, because he was the person who basically founded modern astronomy, and he is the person that first came up with the theory that the Earth revolves around the sun. ~~The question that I would ask him would be "what caused you to keep on believing in yourself even though you knew the punishment".~~ [I would ask him, "What gave you the strength to maintain your beliefs despite knowing the potential consequences?"] This to me would be a good question to ask, because now Copernicus is an extremely well-known person that is important in history because of his decision.