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

WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "The magical carpet spread across the floor as its lust of colours sprawled like dye on paper. Every edge and space of the airborne beauty shimmered in the sentimental colours of the waning sunset"

Strengths:

- Creative use of imagery through the dye on paper comparison
- Effective colour imagery that sets a magical atmosphere

Weakness: Unclear metaphor naming \rightarrow The phrase "lust of colours" creates confusion as "lust" doesn't fit naturally with colours. The comparison feels forced and doesn't help readers picture the scene clearly.

Exemplar: "The magical carpet spread across the floor, its rich colours bleeding into one another like watercolours on paper."

#2 "every tarnished line of string and gilded edge represented its history, like rings on a dying tree. Every single wood fibre was a year, waiting to pass"

Strengths:

- Clever comparison between carpet fibres and tree rings
- Good use of detailed observation in describing the carpet's appearance

Weakness: Mixed metaphor naming \rightarrow You combine two different comparisons (tree rings and wood fibres) that don't work together smoothly. This makes it harder to follow your meaning.

Exemplar: "Every tarnished line and gilded edge held its history, like rings in an ancient tree trunk, each circle marking a year gone by."

#3 "the carpet's soft silk stringy felt like if God himself created it. A prefect carpet with fresh power and elegant grace"

Strengths:

- Strong emotional impact through divine comparison
- Good use of sensory details with texture

Weakness: Word choice naming \rightarrow Words like "stringy" and "prefect" don't match the elegant tone you're trying to create. They take away from the magical quality of your description.

Exemplar: "the carpet's silken texture felt divine in its creation, a perfect blend of power and elegant grace."

■ Your piece creates a wonderful magical atmosphere, but you could strengthen it by developing the carpet's story more deeply. What adventures has it been on? Who owned it before? Adding these details would make your description richer and more engaging. Try expanding each paragraph to include more specific details about the carpet's journey through time.

Actionable task: Rewrite your second paragraph focusing on one specific story from the carpet's history - describe what happened and how it left its mark on the carpet's appearance.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

#1 The magical carpet spread across the floor as its lust of colours sprawled [as its colours sprawled] like dye on paper. Every edge and space of the airborne beauty shimmered in the sentimental colours of the waning sunset, the ethereal appearance of it certainly was one of a kind, like an overseer above an Arabian night. Crimson to Bronze, the colours were outstanding, glistening up like a rising ember from a forgotten fire.

#2 The carpet wasn't just an ordinary carpet, every [Each] tarnished line of string and gilded edge represented its history, like rings on a dying tree. Every single wood fibre was a year, waiting to pass, [Each fibre marked a passing year,] and as it grows older and older, the stories of it get older too. Like fragments of long-lost stories reuniting again together as one mythical being.

#3 But regardless of its age, it stood tall and bright, the carpet's luminosity and absolute radiance outshone everything, from a rainy day to the absolute abyss of darkness. Its confidence proved valiant; the earpet's soft silk stringy felt like if God himself created it. [the carpet's soft silk felt as though it were divinely created.] A prefect [perfect] carpet with fresh power and elegant grace that burst in a spectrum of light and colour, flying into the sky blazing up anew as if it was a mythical phoenix rising from the ashes.

WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "Deep beneath the city, where the air was thick with the smell of damp earth and the faint metallic tang of forgotten machinery, Aiden hesitated before the pulsating blue glow." Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details that create an immersive atmosphere
- Strong opening that immediately establishes the setting

Weakness: Limited character development \rightarrow Your opening focuses heavily on the setting but tells us little about Aiden's emotions or motivations. Why does he hesitate? What brings him to this underground location?

Exemplar: Deep beneath the city, Aiden's heart raced as he hesitated before the pulsating blue glow, torn between fear and an overwhelming curiosity that had led him through the dank tunnels.

#2 "The hidden door, set into a crumbling wall of moss-streaked stone, seemed to breathe, its light waxing and waning like the rhythm of an unseen heartbeat." Strengths:

- Creative personification of the door
- Effective use of metaphor with the heartbeat comparison

Weakness: Underdeveloped mystery elements \rightarrow Your description hints at something magical but doesn't build enough tension. The door's significance remains unclear. What makes this door special beyond its appearance?

Exemplar: The hidden door pulsed with ancient power, each breath of light revealing fragments of a mystery that had haunted the city's depths for centuries.

#3 "But here, in the depths, the pulse of the door grew stronger, urging him closer, daring him to turn the handle and unveil whatever lay hidden beyond, a mystery too powerful to ignore." Strengths:

- Strong tension building
- Effective use of active language

Weakness: Incomplete story arc \rightarrow Your ending leaves too many questions unanswered. The buildup creates expectations that aren't fulfilled. What consequences await if Aiden opens the door?

Exemplar: The door's pulse grew stronger, compelling Aiden forward despite the warnings echoing in his mind about the ancient seal that had kept the city safe for generations.

■ Your writing shows great potential in creating atmosphere, but the story needs more depth. You've built an intriguing setting but haven't fully explored its impact on your character. Try adding more about Aiden's personal stakes in this situation. What drives him to explore these depths? What might he gain or lose by opening the door?

Actionable task: Rewrite the final paragraph focusing on Aiden's internal conflict and the specific consequences he faces when deciding whether to open the door.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 Deep beneath the city, where the air was thick with the smell of damp earth and the faint metallic tang of forgotten machinery, Aiden hesitated before the pulsating blue glow.

#2 The hidden door, set into a crumbling wall of moss-streaked stone, seemed to breathe, its light waxing and waning like the rhythm of an unseen heartbeat. Strange symbols, sharp and fluid at once, shimmered in the glow, as though etched by some ancient hand that had known secrets beyond comprehension.

Aiden ran his fingers over the symbols, feeling warmth radiate through the stone as a low hum resonated in the air. It was as if the door itself was alive, whispering unspoken truths in a language older than the city above. The cavern around him seemed to hold its breath, shadows frozen against jagged rock formations that dripped with glistening beads of moisture.

A faint trail of luminescent fungi edged the floor, leading directly to the door, their soft light a delicate echo of the blue radiance. Somewhere far above, the faint tremor of a passing train rumbled like a distant storm. #3 But here, in the depths, the pulse of the door grew stronger, urging him closer, daring him to turn the handle and unveil whatever lay hidden beyond, a mystery too powerful to ignore. [But here, in the depths, the pulse of the door grew stronger, urging him closer, daring him to confront the ancient powers that lay hidden beyond - powers that could reshape the city above, for better or worse.]

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph about community improvement) Strengths:

- Clear organisation with specific examples of educational initiatives
- Thoughtful consideration of multiple community aspects

Weakness: Limited elaboration on implementation \rightarrow Your writing briefly mentions funding technology and programs but doesn't detail how these would be managed or sustained. The phrase "support local schools by funding technology" needs more specific examples of what technology would be funded and how it would benefit students directly.

Exemplar: I would establish a sustainable technology fund for local schools, ensuring each classroom has interactive smartboards and providing students with tablets for digital learning, which would enhance their engagement and prepare them for our technology-driven world.

#2 (Conflict resolution paragraph) Strengths:

- Good emphasis on open communication
- Structured approach to problem-solving

Weakness: Repetitive communication points \rightarrow Your response repeats similar ideas about talking and listening. The phrase "nicely talk to the person" and "Listening, I would share my point of view" could be combined into a more comprehensive approach to show deeper understanding of conflict resolution.

Exemplar: I would initiate a constructive dialogue where both parties can express their concerns, actively listening to understand the root cause while working together to identify practical solutions.

#3 (Teaching maths paragraph) Strengths:

- Creative integration of real-world examples
- Engaging approach to complex concepts

Weakness: Unclear learning outcomes \rightarrow Your lesson plan lacks specific learning goals. The phrase "reflect on the beauty and practicallity of patterns" needs to include what students would actually learn and achieve through this lesson.

Exemplar: Students will learn to identify and create fractal patterns, understanding their mathematical properties through hands-on activities, while developing skills in pattern recognition and geometric scaling.

■ Your answers would benefit from more detailed examples and specific outcomes. When discussing community improvement, include more concrete plans for implementation. For conflict resolution, focus on specific strategies rather than general communication points. In the teaching scenario, outline clear learning objectives alongside the creative activities. Consider expanding each answer with real-life examples to strengthen your points.

Your task: Rewrite the conflict resolution paragraph focusing on specific strategies and outcomes, ensuring each step has a clear purpose and measurable result.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

If given a large sum of money to improve my community, I would invest it in education and facilities. First, I would probably like to support local schools by funding technology, extracurricular programs, and updated resources to provide every student with equal opportunities to succeed in school. Second, I would create community facilities including free fitness courses, career training, and recreational activities, ensuring access for all age groups. To address broader community needs, I'd fund affordable housing prices or support sustainability projects, like public gardens or renewable energy systems, to promote growth in the long-term. By focusing on education and access, I could empower individuals to shape a stronger and sufficient [self-sufficient] community. #1

If I were] to handle conflict with a classmate or teammate, I would first make clear and respectful communication present. First, I would nicely talk to the person involved to understand their perspective and identify the main issue. Listening, I would share my point of view without being biased or unfair, focusing on finding common ground. If needed, I'd propose solutions, such as delegating things more fairly or suggesting on approaches. If the conflict kept on going, I'd involve a neutral person who wasn't originally part of the argument, such as a teacher or an arbiter, to facilitate resolution. Ultimately, my goal would be to address the issue together and find a valid solution to combat the issue. #2

If I were teaching a maths class for a day, I'd focus on fractals, combining art, nature, and maths. I would start by exploring where students have seen repeating patterns, like in leaves or snowflakes, and introduce fractals as never-ending patterns found in nature. Using many objects like the Mobius Strip we'd create a fractal by repeatedly going on one side. Or the Sierpinski triangle, fractals dividing the triangle shape infinitely, showing its infinite complexity. I would connect this to maths concepts like recursion, scaling, and real-world applications in technology

and design. Students would explore it digitally, zooming into detail to see their ornate patterns. Near the end of the lesson, we'd reflect on the beauty and practicallity [practicality] of patterns in maths and art, talking about curiosity about both subjects in the world. #3