WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "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. He towered over the glass, taking a moment to just stare at it."

Strengths:

- Strong opening that creates intrigue and mystery
- Effective use of descriptive details that set the scene

Weakness: Limited sensory details → Your writing would benefit from including more sensory elements about the beach setting. The scene lacks descriptions of how the sand felt, the weather, or the sounds around Lucas.

Exemplar: ***On the last day of summer, as seagulls wheeled overhead and warm sand shifted beneath his feet, Lucas found a glass jar half-buried in the sand.***

#2 "His bone-white nimble fingers slowly took of his ebony black hoodie, revealing a gargantuan red scar under his eyes, whispering secrets of the past yet untold."

Strengths:

- Creative use of symbolism with the scar
- Good attempt at building character backstory

Weakness: Character development gaps → Your description of Lucas focuses heavily on physical appearance but lacks emotional depth. The scar is mentioned but its significance isn't properly connected to the story's later revelations about his mother.

Exemplar: ***His trembling fingers traced the old scar beneath his eyes - a reminder of the accident that had taken his mother away, as he slowly removed his black hoodie.***

#3 "His stern face broke into tears. A slight smile spread across his face, a juxtaposition to his appearance. His mother had died a few years ago, and memories of her still flood in his mind."

Strengths:

- Good emotional transition

- Effective use of contrasting emotions

Weakness: Emotional progression → Your writing jumps too quickly between emotional states without fully developing each feeling. The shift from stern to tears to smiling happens too abruptly.

Exemplar: ***Tears welled up in his eyes as the stern mask he wore began to crack. For the first time in years, a gentle smile touched his lips as memories of his mother flooded back.***

■ Your narrative has an interesting mystery element with the coded message, but the connection between the jar, code, and locket needs more development. The emotional impact would be stronger if you built up Lucas's relationship with his mother through specific memories or flashbacks. Your ending feels rushed and leaves readers wondering what Lucas realised.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the ending paragraph focusing on what Lucas specifically realises, and include at least one specific memory of his mother that makes the locket discovery meaningful.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 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. He towered over the glass, taking a moment to just stare at it.

#2 His bone-white nimble fingers slowly ~~took of~~ [took off] his ebony black hoodie, revealing a gargantuan red scar under his eyes, whispering secrets of the past yet untold. ~~A rigid and stern expression was written all over his face~~ [His face wore a rigid, stern expression], his eyes cutting, constrained and indifferent. A golden locket dangled from his neck.

Struggling to read the ancient language, he shoved the worn, yellowish paper back in the glass. But something stopped him. He held the paper and gazed at it; his eyes fixed on the paper. ~~It seemed somewhat familiar. Somewhat nostalgic…~~ [Something about it felt familiar, stirring long-buried memories...]

He flipped it over. It read: 13 15 20 8 5 18 12 15 3 11 5 20 A wave of confusion washed over him. He grabbed his phone out of his pocket, and thought hard. What could it mean… After trying and trying he finally deciphered the code. It read: MOTHER LOCKET.

#3 His stern face broke into tears. A slight smile spread across his face, a juxtaposition to his appearance. His mother had died a few years ago, and ~~memories of her still flood~~ [memories of her still flooded] in his mind. He suddenly remembered. The golden locket. This was his mother's. He opened it. It was a picture of him and his mother. Nothing else. Just a picture that held a million memories. Suddenly, he realised….

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. 'Its just you imagination' they said, but he knew it wasn't. Every midnight, while the villagers were asleep in their dreams, Liam stood on the porch, watching the stars that weren't there."

Strengths:

- Strong hook that immediately creates mystery and intrigue
- Effective use of repetition with "Every midnight" to emphasise the routine

Weakness: Limited Setting Details → Your opening establishes an interesting premise but lacks sensory details about the village and porch setting. "Above the village" and "on the porch" give only basic location information.

Exemplar: ***Every midnight, as the cool mountain air settled over the sleeping village, the stars above their tin-roofed homes flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice.***

#2 "H-Heather", he whispered. She was there, right in front of him. Except she wasn't in human form. She was foggy mist."

Strengths:

- Effective use of dialogue to show emotion
- Creative description of Heather's ghostly appearance

Weakness: Emotional Depth → Your description of this pivotal reunion could delve deeper into Liam's emotional state. The stuttering shows nervousness, but we need more of his internal thoughts and physical reactions.

Exemplar: ***"H-Heather," he whispered, his hands trembling as he reached toward the foggy mist that was once his sister, his heart pounding with both joy and fear.***

#3 "'Run', she whispered. Bewilderment was written all over Liam's face."

Strengths:

- Creates immediate tension and suspense
- Shows clear contrast between characters' knowledge

Weakness: Abrupt Ending → Your ending feels rushed and leaves too many questions unanswered. The shift from reunion to danger happens too quickly without enough build-up.

Exemplar: ***"Run," she whispered urgently, her misty form growing fainter as the darkness around them seemed to deepen. Liam's face twisted in confusion as the truth slowly dawned on him - the missing stars were only the beginning.***

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating a supernatural atmosphere and emotional connection between siblings. However, you could strengthen the story by developing the relationship between the mysterious disappearing stars and Heather's warning. Consider adding more details about why the stars vanish and how this connects to the danger Heather senses. You might also explore how this experience changes Liam's perspective on loss and grief.

Actionable task: Rewrite the final paragraph focusing on building tension gradually, connecting the missing stars to Heather's warning, and showing Liam's emotional journey from confusion to understanding.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

Every midnight, the stars above the village flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice. "~~Its~~ [It's] just ~~you~~ [your] imagination" they said, but he knew it wasn't. Every midnight, while the villagers were asleep in their dreams, Liam stood on the porch, watching the stars that weren't there. #1

Liam wasn't a likable person. He was quiet, never said a word. One of the reasons the villagers didn't believe him. He stood there, silence filling the moist air. But a small voice broke the silence. "Hey Li". His bottom lip quivered. Was this his imagination again? He looked up. That exact voice was the voice of her sister. Heather. Who passed away a year ago…

~~Which is an explanation of why he was like this.~~ [This explained why he was the way he was.] Ever since his sister passed away, it seemed as if all the joy was wiped away from ~~is~~ [his] life.

"Just forget about it", he muttered to himself. He looked up at the sky, an illimitable painting of blue. Plain blue. No twinkling stars. He heard it again. "Hey Li". He saw her. Standing next to him. #2 "H-Heather", he whispered. She was there, right in front of him. Except she wasn't in human form. She was foggy mist.

"I miss you". A cold tear ran down his cheek. "But I'm here", she said, choking on her words. But they both knew she wasn't really there. "Why are you out here", she asked. "E-every midnight, all the stars just seem to vanish." Her eyes widened. #3 "Run", she whispered. Bewilderment was written all over Liam's face.

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 "Being a good student, to me, is more than just achieving good grades..." Strengths:

- Shows maturity in understanding that being a good student involves multiple aspects
- Effectively uses personal experience as evidence

Weakness: Limited development of ideas → You briefly mention discipline and respect but don't fully explain how these qualities make someone a good student. The example given is quite general and could be more specific about how you demonstrate discipline and maturity.

Exemplar: ***When I consistently complete my homework on time and help classmates understand difficult concepts, I demonstrate the discipline and maturity that make a good student.***

#2 "If I see someone being treated unfairly..." Strengths:

- Provides a concrete real-life example
- Shows problem-solving skills and empathy

Weakness: Repetitive structure → Your response uses "I would" multiple times which makes it sound less natural. The solutions mentioned could be more detailed about how you actually helped resolve the conflict.

Exemplar: ***After noticing the tension in our group, I pulled both friends aside to understand their perspectives and helped them find common ground through open discussion.***

#3 "If I could meet any historical figure..." Strengths:

- Shows genuine interest in the subject
- Demonstrates knowledge of da Vinci's work

Weakness: Underdeveloped reasoning → While you list da Vinci's achievements, you don't fully explain why meeting him would be meaningful to you personally. The gravity question seems disconnected from the earlier points about his inventions.

Exemplar: ***I would ask da Vinci about his creative process and how he managed to excel in so many different fields, as his multidisciplinary approach to learning continues to inspire me.***

■ Your answers show good potential but need more depth and personal connection. Try to give more specific examples from your own experience rather than general statements. Make your responses longer by explaining the impact of your actions and what you learned from situations. When discussing historical figures, connect their achievements to your own interests and aspirations.

Score: 42/50

Section 2: #1 ~~Being a good student, to me, is more than just achieving good grades, but about discipline, respect and much more.~~ [Being a good student, to me, encompasses more than just achieving good grades - it's about discipline, respect and many other qualities.] Being a good student includes having respect ~~to~~ [for] not only your teachers, but your peers around you. This would ensure a safe and supportive environment. Additionally, discipline and maturity are ~~2~~ [two] of the most important factors of being a good student. This would help both the individual and other students learn with ease. For example, I always display both discipline and maturity in class, so both me and my peers can learn and collaborate without difficulty.

#2 If I see someone being treated unfairly, I would ~~either~~ step in the situation and stand up for the person being treated unfairly, and help them figure out what is the best way to approach the situation. Furthermore, I would comfort the person who is being treated unfairly so they feel safe and secure. For example, I remember two of my friends were in an argument because one of them would not let the other be ~~part if~~ [part of] the group. I went and approached them and helped them solve the problem by asking why they would not allow her in the group. Another solution is asking an adult to help them solve the problem, so the situation doesn't get escalated.

#3 If I could meet any historical figure, I would meet Leonardo da Vinci, as he was a painter, draughtsman, engineer, scientist, theorist, sculptor, and architect. It still fascinates me to this day ~~of~~ [about] all his achievements and awards, and the interesting theories he created such as the parachute, the helicopter, an armoured fighting vehicle, and much more. If I were to meet him, I would ask him if he had figured out the concept of gravity before Isaac Newton [.] This is

because it was found among his research that he had actually figured out about gravity and the laws of gravity. Yet people still don't know if he figured it out before Isaac Newton.