

## 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. Known for his impulsive curiosity, he paused—just for a moment—examining the jar with a delicate care that seemed at odds with his usual reckless energy."

#### Strengths:

- Strong opening that creates intrigue and mystery
- Effective character development showing Lucas's contrasting traits

Weakness: Limited sensory details → Your writing could benefit from more vivid descriptions of the beach setting. The scene feels somewhat disconnected from its surroundings. ***I noticed the waves lapping at the shore as I knelt in the warm sand, the glass jar cool against my fingertips despite the summer heat.***

#2 "Excitement bubbled within him as he dashed home, trailing sand through the hallway. "Lucas! Clean your feet before you even think about stepping in!" his mother hollered. Groaning, he swept the sand off before retreating to his room."

#### Strengths:

- Natural dialogue that shows family dynamics
- Good pacing that maintains story momentum

Weakness: Underdeveloped emotional depth → Your writing touches on Lucas's excitement but could dig deeper into his feelings about this discovery. The transition from excitement to groaning feels rushed. ***My heart raced with each step towards home, the jar clutched tightly to my chest. Even Mum's stern warning couldn't dampen the thrill of my mysterious find.***

#3 "Dear reader, a raid with bombs is coming. Evacuate immediately. Their triumph gave way to dread. As Lucas and his dad shared a wide-eyed glance, they knew they had little time to act."

#### Strengths:

- Dramatic reveal that creates tension
- Effective use of body language to convey emotion

Weakness: Rushed ending → Your writing ends abruptly without fully exploring the impact of this revelation. The characters' reactions feel brief and underdeveloped. *Lucas's hands trembled as he read the warning. His father's face paled, and for a moment, the only sound was their shared, shallow breathing as the gravity of the message sank in.*

■ Your story shows promise with its mysterious setup and family dynamics. However, you could strengthen the emotional impact by spending more time developing the characters' reactions to events. The ending feels particularly rushed - consider expanding on how Lucas and his father process this dangerous information and what specific actions they decide to take.

Actionable task: Rewrite the final paragraph, focusing on developing the characters' emotional and physical reactions to the message, and include their immediate plan of action.

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**Score: 41/50**

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## 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. Known for his impulsive curiosity, he paused—just for a moment—examining the jar with a delicate care that seemed at odds with his usual reckless energy. ~~The glass was smooth yet weathered, whispering secrets of tides long past.~~ [The glass, smooth yet weathered by countless tides, seemed to whisper ancient secrets.]

~~Excitement bubbled within him as he dashed home, trailing sand through the hallway.~~ [Bubbling with excitement, Lucas dashed home, leaving a trail of sand through the hallway.] "Lucas! Clean your feet before you even think about stepping in!" his mother hollered. Groaning, he swept the sand off before retreating to his room. There, he uncorked the jar, releasing a faint, musty scent. A brittle roll of paper tumbled out, the first word jumbled in a disorienting code: RDAE.

His dad, a towering figure whose tattooed arms and gruff demeanour often masked a surprising warmth, appeared in the doorway. "What's that, kiddo?" he asked, his voice softer than his appearance implied. "It's a message, but I can't figure it out," Lucas murmured, frustrated. His dad stepped closer, his sharp eyes scanning the paper. "Looks like an anagram," he said, scribbling DEAR/READ on a scrap of paper. Excitement flickered across Lucas's face—until the message revealed a dire warning: Dear reader, a raid with bombs is coming. Evacuate immediately. ~~Their triumph gave way to dread. As Lucas and his dad shared a wide-eyed glance, they knew they had little time to act.~~ [Their brief moment of triumph dissolved into dread as Lucas and his dad shared a wide-eyed glance, both knowing they had precious little time to act.]

## WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "At first, he dismissed it as a trick of his restless mind. But night after night, the mysterious vanishing of the stars gnawed at him. He considered telling his mother, but she'd ask why he was awake so late."

Strengths:

- Creates suspense through Liam's internal conflict
- Shows character development through his decision-making process

Weakness: Limited emotional depth → Your writing could delve deeper into Liam's feelings about keeping this secret. The phrase "gnawed at him" hints at his turmoil but doesn't fully explore his emotional state.

Exemplar: *The weight of the secret pressed heavily on his chest each night, leaving him torn between seeking answers and protecting his late-night vigils.*

#2: "Her thin frame looked delicate, like a gust of wind could snap her in two. Yet Liam knew better—this was the same woman who could haul a week's groceries in one hand and face the weight of life's challenges with unshakable resolve."

Strengths:

- Vivid physical description contrasted with inner strength
- Shows the mother's character through specific details

Weakness: Disconnect between descriptions → Your contrasting descriptions need smoother connection. The transition from "snap her in two" to "haul a week's groceries" feels sudden.

Exemplar: *Though her frame appeared fragile, her strength shone through in everything she did, from carrying heavy shopping bags to facing life's hardest moments.*

#3: "Days passed in tense silence until a reply arrived. It turned out Liam's observation had uncovered a critical fault in the system that powered their world."

Strengths:

- Creates tension through waiting period
- Links personal observation to larger consequences

Weakness: Rushed resolution → Your ending moves too quickly from discovery to solution. The phrase "turned out" minimises the impact of this major revelation.

Exemplar: *The government's response revealed something extraordinary - Liam's careful stargazing had exposed a dangerous flaw in their world's protective system.*

■ Your story presents an intriguing concept but needs more development in key moments. You could strengthen the emotional connection between mother and son during their shared discovery. The resolution would benefit from more details about how Liam's observation helps save their world. Your dialogue effectively shows character relationships.

Actionable task: Rewrite the ending paragraph focusing on Liam's feelings about his discovery and add more details about how his observation helped save their world.

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**Score: 41/50**

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Section 2:

#1 Every midnight, the stars above the village flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice. At first, he dismissed it as a trick of his restless mind. ~~But night after night, the mysterious vanishing of the stars gnawed at him.~~ [Night after night, the mysterious vanishing of the stars haunted his thoughts, consuming his every waking moment.] He considered telling his mother, but she'd ask why he was awake so late. ~~And how could he admit that sleep had evaded him for months, chased away by the pull of the night sky?~~ [How could he explain that sleep had abandoned him for months, his mind captivated by the mesmerising dance of the night sky?]

#2 One evening, he decided to share the secret. "Mum," he began tentatively, his voice low. "Yes, love?" she replied, emerging from the kitchen, her arms dusted with flour. ~~Her thin frame looked delicate, like a gust of wind could snap her in two. Yet Liam knew better—this was the same woman who could haul a week's groceries in one hand and face the weight of life's challenges with unshakable resolve.~~ [Despite her delicate appearance, Liam knew the strength that lay beneath—she was the woman who could carry a week's shopping with unwavering determination and face life's challenges with remarkable resilience.]

He patted the bed, and she sat, her warmth grounding him. ~~As he spoke of flickering stars and sleepless nights, her face shifted from concern to wonder.~~ [While he shared his tale of flickering stars and sleepless nights, her expression transformed from worried mother to fascinated listener.] She left briefly, returning with a worn leather-bound book.

#3 "A long time ago," she began, her voice tinged with reverence, "our world was so polluted that leaders created this place—a refuge with artificial stars. But flickering? That's not supposed to happen." ~~Together, they drafted a letter to the government, warning of the anomaly.~~ [Working side by side, they carefully composed a letter to the government, detailing the mysterious anomaly.] Days passed in tense silence until a reply arrived. ~~It turned out Liam's observation had uncovered a critical fault in the system that powered their world.~~ [The response revealed that Liam's keen observation had discovered a dangerous flaw in the system sustaining their world.] The glitch could have cascaded into catastrophe, but thanks to Liam's vigilance, disaster was averted. ~~For the first time in months, he slept soundly, under stars he now knew were both fragile and precious.~~ [That night, for the first time in months, he drifted into peaceful sleep beneath the stars—stars he now understood were both delicate and irreplaceable.]

## INTERVIEW

### Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph on being a good student) Strengths:

- Clear structure with well-linked ideas about academic and personal qualities
- Strong emphasis on community values and peer support

Weakness: Limited personal examples → Your response focuses on general statements about being a good student without sharing specific situations or experiences. Phrases like "following classroom rules" and "showing kindness" would be more meaningful with concrete examples.

Exemplar: *"When my classmate struggled with maths last term, I spent lunch breaks helping them practise multiplication, which showed me that being a good student means supporting others while maintaining my own studies."*

#2 (Response about unfair treatment) Strengths:

- Thoughtful step-by-step approach to handling conflict
- Balanced perspective considering different scenarios

Weakness: Vague resolution strategies → Your answer could benefit from more specific actions. The phrase "intervene appropriately" needs more detail about exactly how you would step in and help.

Exemplar: *"Last week, when I saw someone excluding a classmate from games, I invited them to join our group and helped everyone understand why inclusion matters."*

#3 (Stephen Hawking response) Strengths:

- Personal connection to the historical figure
- Clear reasoning for choice

Weakness: Surface-level questioning → Your question about technology could dig deeper into Hawking's scientific contributions. The focus stays mainly on his physical condition rather than his groundbreaking theories.

Exemplar: *"I would ask Professor Hawking how his understanding of black holes changed our view of the universe, and how he managed to visualise such complex concepts despite his physical limitations."*

■ Your answers show good thinking but need more depth through personal examples. Try to share real experiences that match each point you make. Make your responses longer by adding specific situations you've faced or observed. When discussing values like kindness or fairness, tell small stories about times you've shown these qualities. This makes your answers more believable and interesting.

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**Score: 40/50**

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Section 2:

Q4. What does being a good student mean to you? #1 ~~To me, being a good student goes beyond academic achievement. It means embodying qualities like diligence, respect, and kindness.~~ [To me, being a good student extends far beyond just academic success – it's about embodying essential qualities like diligence, respect, and kindness in everything we do.] Following classroom rules is essential as it fosters a positive and productive environment for everyone. However, being a good student is also about consistently striving to do your best, even when faced with challenges, as this mindset helps you grow not just academically but personally. ~~What's equally important is showing kindness and consideration toward others.~~ [Equally crucial is demonstrating genuine kindness and consideration towards others, whether they're struggling with a difficult

concept or simply having a tough day.] A good student supports their peers, respects teachers, and contributes to a sense of community. ~~Ultimately, being a good student is about balancing effort, respect, and compassion to create a space where learning and personal growth thrive.~~ [In essence, being a good student means striking the perfect balance between academic effort, mutual respect, and sincere compassion, thereby creating an environment where both learning and personal growth can flourish.]

Q5. What do you do when you see someone being treated unfairly? #2 When I see someone being treated unfairly, the first step I take is to assess the situation calmly. ~~If it seems that the person treating them unfairly might not be aware of their actions, I try to address it by bringing their attention to the issue in a respectful way.~~ [When I notice that someone might be unaware of their unfair actions, I carefully approach them and discuss the situation respectfully, helping them understand the impact of their behaviour.] Sometimes, people don't realise the impact of their behaviour until it's pointed out. However, if the unfair treatment is intentional, I believe it's important to intervene appropriately. ~~I would explain why their actions are harmful, as they might not fully understand the consequences.~~ [I make sure to explain clearly how their actions affect others, highlighting specific consequences they might not have considered.] If the unfair behaviour persists despite this, I think it's crucial to involve an adult or someone in authority to ensure the situation is resolved and the affected person feels supported and protected. Standing up against unfairness is not always easy, but I believe it's important to do so with empathy and a focus on resolving the issue constructively.

Q6. If you could meet any historical figure, who would it be, and what would you ask them? #3 If I could meet any historical figure, it would be Stephen Hawking. ~~I would ask him, "What is it like to rely solely on technology for communication and mobility, and how did that influence your perspective on the world?"~~ [I would ask him, "How did relying on technology for communication and mobility influence your perspective on both the universe and human potential?"] Stephen Hawking is one of the most brilliant minds in history, and I find it fascinating how he continued to make groundbreaking discoveries despite facing physical limitations. ~~I can't imagine the challenges he faced—having to depend on computers and assistive devices for even the simplest tasks while contributing so much to science.~~ [The way he transformed potential barriers into opportunities—using advanced computers and assistive devices not just for daily tasks but to revolutionise our understanding of science—truly showcases human resilience.] His ability to overcome adversity and still revolutionise our understanding of the universe is incredibly inspiring. I would love to learn how he found motivation to keep pushing boundaries, and what advice he would have for others facing their own challenges.