

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." Strengths:

- Creates immediate intrigue with the mysterious discovery
- Sets up a clear scene with specific details

Weakness: Limited sensory details → Your opening could benefit from describing how Lucas found the jar and his initial reaction. The phrase "buried in the sand" leaves room for more engaging details about the discovery moment.

Exemplar: *On the last day of summer, Lucas' fingers brushed against something smooth while digging in the warm sand. His heart raced as he pulled out a glass jar, inside which lay a message written in strange symbols he had never seen before.*

#2 "Lucas, thinking that cleaning the jar and his room was going to be easy, said, 'Sure thing, Mom.' Excited, he ran off, cleaned the jar, and went into his room" Strengths:

- Shows Lucas' personality through his optimistic attitude
- Includes realistic dialogue

Weakness: Rushed pacing → Your writing moves too quickly through Lucas cleaning the jar. The phrase "cleaned the jar, and went into his room" skips over what could be an interesting moment of Lucas examining his treasure.

Exemplar: *Lucas confidently agreed to his mother's terms. After carefully washing away the sand under warm water, he held the gleaming jar up to the light, wondering about its mysterious journey to the beach.*

#3 "This is going to be a long day." Lucas said, staring at the mess of a bedroom he had." Strengths:

- Effectively uses dialogue to show Lucas' feelings
- Creates a relatable moment

Weakness: Limited description of the room → Your writing could paint a clearer picture of the messy room. The phrase "mess if a bedroom" needs more specific details about what makes the room messy.

Exemplar: *"This is going to be a long day," Lucas groaned, surveying his bedroom floor where toy cars, comic books, and building blocks created an obstacle course of clutter.*

■ Your story has a promising start with an intriguing discovery, but you could develop the mystery of the message more deeply. Try adding more details about Lucas' thoughts and feelings about the strange writing. You could also build more tension by showing his struggle between wanting to explore the jar's secrets and having to clean his room first.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the scene where Lucas cleans the jar, focusing on his examination of the mysterious message and his thoughts about where it might have come from.

Score: 38/50

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. ~~Confused, he put the message back in the jar, picked up the glass jar, and marched off,~~ [With puzzled eyes, he carefully placed the message back in the jar and trudged through the sand] back to his home, where he wanted to look at it closer, and show his parents maybe. ~~He had been at the beach, so maybe it was a message in a bottle, but was written by someone in another country.~~ [Perhaps this mysterious bottle had travelled across oceans, carrying words from a distant land.] Still, it was pretty cool either way. He excitedly showed his parents, and they thought the exact same thing; ~~message in a bottle.~~ [it must be a message in a bottle!]

#2 ~~Lucas, thinking that cleaning the jar and his room was going to be easy, said,~~ [Lucas smiled confidently and said,] "Sure thing, Mom." Excited, he ran off, cleaned the jar, and went into his room, where he stepped on Lego, tripped on action figures, and slipped on books.

#3 "This is going to be a long day." Lucas said, ~~staring at the mess if a bedroom he had.~~ [staring at the mess of a bedroom before him.] Then he said, "Why did I say yes?"

WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "Every midnight, the stars seemed to flicker off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice. When he told his parents, they called him crazy, when he told his friends, they laughed at him, and when he explained to cousins, they stared at him, confused."

Strengths:

- Strong opening hook that creates mystery
- Good use of repetition to show isolation

Weakness: Limited emotional depth → Your writing would benefit from showing Liam's feelings about being dismissed by everyone. The phrase "they called him crazy" could be enhanced by describing his emotional reaction.

Exemplar: *When he told his parents and they called him crazy, his heart sank as tears welled up in his eyes.*

#2 "His village, content with ignorance, slept easy, but Liam couldn't ignore the truth. His dad said he was chasing his imagination, but Liam wasn't so sure."

Strengths:

- Nice contrast between village and Liam
- Good build-up of tension

Weakness: Underdeveloped setting → Your description of the village needs more detail. The phrase "content with ignorance" could be expanded to paint a clearer picture of village life.

Exemplar: *The tiny village nestled in the valley remained peaceful at night, its cottages dark and silent while Liam lay awake, watching.*

#3 "Liam looked back, and saw something. Black eyes. red teeth. And an urge to kill."

Strengths:

- Effective use of short sentences for impact
- Creates suspense through minimal description

Weakness: Unclear monster description → Your monster needs more specific details. The phrases "black eyes" and "red teeth" don't give readers enough to picture the creature.

Exemplar: *Liam looked back and froze. Two hollow black eyes gleamed in the darkness, rows of bloodstained teeth dripping with hunger.*

■ Your story has a strong supernatural element that draws readers in. You could make the story more gripping by adding more details about why only Liam can see these events. Try developing the relationship between Liam and his family to show why they don't believe him. You might also want to think about what lies behind that mysterious door at the end.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the scene where Liam encounters the monster, focusing on all five senses to make the experience more vivid and frightening.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

Every midnight, the stars seemed to flicker off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice. ~~When he told his parents, they called him crazy, when he told his friends, they laughed at him, and when he explained to cousins, they stared at him, confused.~~ [When he told his parents, they called him crazy; when he told his friends, they laughed at him; and when he explained to his cousins, they stared at him, confused.] #1 He just couldn't understand it. It was like something only he could see, something only he noticed. But there was something sinister about it. Every night, when the stars disappeared, a rumbling noise could be heard, but like the stars, only Liam could hear it. It was like something was rising up from the ground. All his life Liam had stayed up to watch the stars, and he always noticed it. ~~His village, content with ignorance, slept easy, but Liam couldn't ignore the truth. His dad said he was chasing his imagination, but Liam wasn't so sure.~~ [The village, content with ignorance, slept peacefully, whilst Liam couldn't ignore the truth. His dad insisted he was merely chasing his imagination, but Liam knew better.] #2

One night, Liam snuck out, ten minutes before midnight. Bringing his soft toy, Mister Fuzzydum, he went outside, and was greeted by eerie silence and dim light. He waited, and when the stars flickered, he heard the rumbling. But this time, he heard something else too. A growl. ~~Liam looked back, and saw something. Black eyes. red teeth. And an urge to kill.~~ [Liam looked back and saw something terrifying. Black eyes. Red teeth. An ancient urge to kill.] #3 Liam bolted into the still darkness, silence echoing loudly through his ears. He turned and hit a stone wall. Liam stumbled closer to the wall, but the creature didn't follow him. Liam leaned back, meaning to rest on the wall, but he stumbled through a doorway, and then the door shut.

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Shows self-awareness about learning and helping others
- Demonstrates understanding of classroom engagement

Weaknesses: Repetitive ideas → Multiple mentions of "helping others" without developing the concept fully. Your statement "helping others" appears three times without explaining how you specifically assist classmates.

Lack of specific examples → The response would benefit from concrete examples of how you participate in class discussions or help others learn from mistakes.

Exemplar: *When I actively contribute to class discussions by asking thoughtful questions and sharing my understanding, I demonstrate genuine interest in learning. Additionally, I help my classmates by explaining concepts I've mastered, especially after learning from my own mistakes.*

#2 (Second paragraph) Strengths:

- Provides a clear, specific example
- Shows initiative and problem-solving skills

Weaknesses: Abrupt ending → The conclusion about playing tip seems disconnected from the main point about helping someone being bullied.

Limited reflection → Your response could explore the impact of your actions more deeply, beyond just the immediate outcome.

Exemplar: *After helping resolve the bullying situation, I made sure to include the student in our group activities regularly, which helped them feel more welcomed and supported in our class community.*

#3 (Third paragraph) Strengths:

- Shows personal connection to the historical figure
- Demonstrates knowledge of the mathematician's background

Weaknesses: Historical accuracy → The statement about Ramanujan being "the first person to discover infinity" needs more precision.

Development of ideas → Your response could elaborate on specific mathematical contributions that inspire you.

Exemplar: *I admire how Ramanujan developed groundbreaking mathematical theories despite facing numerous challenges, and I would ask him about how his cultural background influenced his unique approach to mathematics.*

■ Your answers show good intentions and personal engagement with the topics. To strengthen your responses, try to develop each point more fully with specific details and examples. When discussing historical figures, focus on their specific achievements and why they matter to you personally. Make your responses longer by explaining the reasoning behind your actions and thoughts.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

#1 To me, being a good student means participating in class discussions, helping others, and understanding my mistakes. ~~This is because by~~ [By] understanding my mistakes, I can help others not make the same mistake again, while also improving myself. I participate in class ~~discussion~~ [discussions] because it shows that I am interested, and information isn't going in one ear and out the other. ~~I help others because it is good to help not yourself, but also others, so that others lives are easier for them.~~ [I help others because making their lives easier benefits both them and myself.]

#2 When I see someone being treated unfairly, I try my best to help them, by being their friend or calling the teacher. For example, I once saw someone getting bullied, and I went to tell the bullies to stop. They didn't listen, so I got the teacher, and she helped get rid of the bullies. ~~The boy thanked me and the teacher, and I asked them if they wanted to play tip. They said yes, and we ran around with my others friends, laughing.~~ [The boy thanked me and the teacher, and when I invited him to play tip with my friends, we all enjoyed running around together.]

#3 If I could meet any historical figure, it would be Srinivasa Ramanujan. He is often considered one of the greatest mathematicians, though interestingly, he had ~~minimum~~ [minimal] formal training in pure mathematics. He was Indian, like me, and I often look up to him. I have heard of his movie; however, I have not had time to watch it, which I am sad about. ~~Despite being Indian during a time of racism's, he is sometimes known as the man who knew infinity, as he was the first person to discover infinity.~~ [Despite facing discrimination during his time, he is known as the man who knew infinity for his remarkable work with infinite series.] If I got the chance to ask

him a question, it would be how he managed to discover infinity while dealing with so much racism at the same time.