

WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "The sun hung low, casting amber light across the desolate beach. The soft hum of the waves was the only sound as Lucas walked alone, his feet sinking into the cool, damp sand where the tide had receded."

Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details that create a strong atmospheric setting
- Effective use of imagery to convey loneliness and isolation

Weakness: Limited emotional depth → Your writing focuses heavily on physical descriptions but misses opportunities to delve into Lucas's feelings about being alone on the last day of summer. Phrases like "Lucas walked alone" could be expanded to reveal his emotional state.

Exemplar: *The sun hung low, casting amber light across the desolate beach as Lucas trudged along, his heart heavy with the weight of ending summers and forgotten memories.*

#2: "The glass jar was old, its surface scratched, yet the way it gleamed in the light suggested it had once been something precious. The air felt still around him, as if nature itself was watching."

Strengths:

- Strong build-up of mystery and tension
- Thoughtful use of personification with nature

Weakness: Underdeveloped object significance → Your description of the jar remains surface-level. While you mention it being "precious," you don't establish why this particular find matters to Lucas beyond simple curiosity.

Exemplar: *The glass jar was old, its scratched surface telling stories of forgotten times, and Lucas felt a deep connection to its mysterious past, as if it had waited centuries just for him.*

#3: "The symbols on the paper danced before his eyes. They were swirling, looping in a way that seemed almost alive. They weren't letters he recognized—no alphabet, no familiar shapes."

Strengths:

- Creative description of mysterious writing

- Effective use of movement words to bring the symbols to life

Weakness: Repetitive description → Your portrayal of the symbols relies on similar words and ideas repeated in different ways. Phrases like "swirling, looping" and "weren't letters he recognized" express the same concept.

Exemplar: *The symbols writhed on the weathered paper like ancient serpents, each mark pulsing with an otherworldly energy that both frightened and fascinated Lucas.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating atmosphere but needs more emotional depth. The connection between Lucas and the mysterious jar could be stronger to make readers care about the discovery. Try adding more about why this moment matters to Lucas personally. You could also make the ending more impactful by showing how this discovery might change him.

Actionable task: Rewrite the scene where Lucas first spots the jar, focusing on his personal connection to the beach and why this discovery feels significant to him specifically.

Score: 41/50

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. #1 The sun hung low, casting amber light across the desolate beach. The soft hum of the waves was the only sound as Lucas walked alone, his feet sinking into the cool, damp sand where the tide had receded. The beach felt abandoned, as if the world had forgotten about it. Summer was slipping away, and with it, the warmth he had come to love. He ran his hand through his hair, brushing away the salty tang of the ocean breeze.

#2 ~~His eyes, with the weight of the heat, suddenly caught~~ [His tired eyes suddenly caught] a faint glimmer beneath the sand. A small, smooth shape, partially hidden from view. His curiosity aroused, Lucas knelt, brushing the sand away with careful fingers. The glass jar was old, its surface scratched, yet the way it gleamed in the light suggested it had once been something precious. The air felt still around him, as if nature itself was watching.

He uncorked the jar with a soft pop, and inside, there was a piece of paper—yellowed, brittle, like it had been waiting for him for decades. ~~As he unrolled the fragile sheet, his breath caught.~~ [His breath caught as he unrolled the fragile sheet.] #3 The symbols on the paper danced before his eyes. They were swirling, looping in a way that seemed almost alive. They weren't letters he recognized—no alphabet, no familiar shapes. The lines twisted into impossible formations that

seemed to shift and pulse under his gaze, as if they were alive with some secret, ancient knowledge.

The wind stilled, the waves now silent. The world around him felt suspended, holding its breath. Lucas turned the paper over, hoping for an explanation. But it was blank. He looked up, expecting to find the usual vast, open sky—but the clouds had thickened, turning a deep, ominous grey. The air felt charged, heavy, as if the earth itself was whispering a warning.

~~A strange energy prickled at the back of his neck.~~ [An eerie energy prickled at the back of his neck.] He stuffed the paper back into the jar and quickly sealed it. His hands trembled. Without another glance at the beach, he turned and walked away, the jar weighing heavily in his bag. The rain began to fall, cold and sudden, as if the storm had been waiting for him to leave.

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. It wasn't the kind of thing most people would think twice about—the way the night sky seemed to breathe, as though it held its breath for a single moment."

Strengths:

- Your opening immediately draws readers in with an intriguing supernatural element
- Your use of personification ("sky seemed to breathe") creates vivid imagery

Weakness: Limited context → Your introduction would benefit from establishing why Liam is the only one who notices this phenomenon. The phrase "only Liam seemed to notice" needs more depth about his character or circumstances that make him uniquely aware.

Exemplar: *Every midnight, the stars above the village flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam, with his lifelong fascination with astronomy and countless nights spent stargazing, seemed to notice.*

#2 "The air was crisp and smelled faintly of pine, as if the trees were whispering secrets just out of earshot. But none of this felt as alive to Liam as the sky did, flickering in and out like a distant memory."

Strengths:

- Your sensory details create an atmospheric setting
- Your metaphor comparing the sky to a memory adds depth

Weakness: Disconnected imagery → Your descriptions, while lovely, don't link clearly to the plot. The phrase "none of this felt as alive" needs to connect more directly to why the sky's behaviour matters to Liam.

Exemplar: *The air was crisp and smelled faintly of pine, but Liam barely noticed, his attention fixed on the sky above—the same sky that had first sparked his curiosity when his grandmother taught him about the constellations years ago.*

#3 "Before Liam could react, the figure faded into the forest, and the stars blinked out again. But this time, Liam knew: he was no longer the only one watching."

Strengths:

- Your ending creates suspense
- Your final line effectively shifts the story's dynamic

Weakness: Rushed revelation → Your ending introduces the mysterious figure without building up to this moment. The phrase "Before Liam could react" rushes past what could be a more impactful encounter.

Exemplar: *The figure's form shimmered like starlight before melting into the forest shadows, and as the stars above blinked out again, Liam felt a profound shift in his understanding: after all these years of solitary observation, he was no longer the only one watching.*

■ Your narrative presents an engaging premise but needs deeper emotional connection to Liam's perspective. You could strengthen the story by weaving in his personal history with the night sky throughout the piece. Consider adding more details about why this phenomenon matters so much to him specifically. Try building tension more gradually towards the mysterious encounter.

Actionable task: Rewrite the scene where Liam first steps outside, focusing on including specific memories or experiences that explain his unique connection to the stars.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

#1 Every midnight, the stars above the village flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice. It wasn't the kind of thing most people would think twice about—the way the night sky seemed to breathe, as though it held its breath for a single moment. But for Liam, it was impossible to ignore. Every night, as the clock struck twelve, the stars would vanish into a soft, velvet blackness, leaving nothing but the cold emptiness of the universe.

Liam's home was in ~~a quiet village~~ [the quiet village] nestled between rolling hills. The cobbled streets were always empty at midnight, the houses quiet and still, each one tucked beneath thick, sloping roofs. #2 The air was crisp and smelled faintly of pine, as if the trees were whispering secrets just out of earshot. But none of this felt as alive to Liam as the sky did, flickering in and out like a distant memory.

One night, he decided to do something he had never done before. He crept out of bed, quiet as a shadow, and slipped through the back door of his house into the stillness of the night. The village square, always peaceful, was eerily silent, save for the soft murmur of the wind rustling through the leaves.

Liam walked toward the edge of the village, the path winding into the dense forest. The trees stood like silent sentinels, their branches twisting high above, but it was the sky that held his gaze. As the stars blinked out, Liam felt the unmistakable pull of something, something beyond the stars.

The seconds seemed to stretch into infinity, and just as suddenly as the sky had gone dark, the stars returned, bright and unchanging. Liam stood there, heart racing, when he saw it—a figure, glowing faintly, standing in the shadows of the trees. It was tall and thin, its shape blurry and shifting. The air felt thick with anticipation.

"Not all secrets belong to the sky," it whispered, its voice a soft echo in the still night.

#3 Before Liam could react, the figure faded into the forest, and the stars blinked out again. But this time, Liam knew: he was no longer the only one watching.

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 (First answer about being a good student) Strengths:

- Well-structured response showing multiple aspects of being a good student
- Strong emphasis on personal growth beyond academics

Weakness: Limited personal examples → Your answer lacks specific examples from your own experience. When you mention "staying organised" and "completing tasks on time", you could share a brief example of how you do this.

Exemplar: ***"I stay organised by keeping a daily planner where I track all my assignments and review my progress each evening, which helps me complete everything on time."***

#2 (Second answer about unfair treatment) Strengths:

- Clear step-by-step approach to handling the situation
- Good balance between personal action and seeking help

Weakness: Vague response steps → Your answer needs more concrete actions. The phrase "calmly assessing the situation" could be more specific about what you would actually look for or do.

Exemplar: ***"When I notice unfair treatment, I first observe if anyone is in immediate danger, then I might say something like 'Hey, could you please stop that?' or 'Would you like to join us instead?'"***

#3 (Third answer about meeting Mozart) Strengths:

- Personal connection through musical background
- Thoughtful questions showing genuine interest

Weakness: Surface-level questioning → Your questions about Mozart's creative process could dig deeper. The phrase "What was your process like" is too broad and misses the chance to ask about specific compositions or techniques.

Exemplar: ***"I would ask Mozart how he composed his Horn Concerto No. 4, as I play this piece myself, and what inspired him to write such challenging yet beautiful horn passages."***

■ Your answers would benefit from more detailed examples from your own life and experiences. Try to make each answer longer by adding personal stories that show these qualities in action. When discussing being a good student, share a time when you helped a classmate. For the unfair

treatment scenario, mention a specific situation you witnessed or handled. In the Mozart answer, talk more about your own musical journey and why his compositions matter to you.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 Being a good student goes beyond just earning high grades; it's about embracing a positive attitude toward learning and growth. A good student is curious and seeks to understand the world by asking questions and exploring new ideas. They stay ~~organized~~ [organised], complete tasks on time, and manage their responsibilities well. Respect is also essential—toward teachers, classmates, and even themselves. A good student listens carefully, collaborates with peers, and helps others when needed. They view challenges as opportunities to improve and see mistakes as a natural part of learning. Most importantly, they are committed to becoming their best self every day.

#2 When I see someone being treated unfairly, I believe it's important to step in and do what I can to help. ~~I would start by calmly assessing the situation and, if it's safe, speaking up to defend the person.~~ [I first make sure the situation is safe, then speak up clearly to defend the person being treated unfairly.] Sometimes, just standing beside them or saying, "That's not okay," can make a difference. If the situation feels serious or beyond my ability to handle, I would immediately tell a trusted adult, like a teacher, counselor, or parent. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect, and I think standing up against unfairness is key to creating a better environment for everyone.

#3 If I could meet any historical figure, I would choose Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. As a musician who plays the French horn and piano, I've always been amazed by his incredible talent and ability to compose so much beautiful music at such a young age. ~~I'd ask him, "What was your process like when writing music for the piano and other instruments?"~~ [I would ask him specifically about his techniques for composing for piano and French horn, particularly how he developed such intricate melodic lines.] How did you keep your creativity flowing, especially with all the challenges you faced?" I'd love to learn how he managed to stay so dedicated to his craft, and how he balanced his passion for music with the difficulties he dealt with in life.