

WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "The carpet spread its wings on the crevassed mahogany floor, cracks reaching out like ancient scars, as it rests peacefully, deep in a slumber, just as it has been for years and years." Strengths:

- Vivid imagery through personification of the carpet
- Strong use of metaphors comparing cracks to scars

Weakness: Tense consistency → Your writing shifts between present and past tense. "spread" (past) and "rests" (present) create confusion in the timeline.

Exemplar: *The carpet spreads its wings on the crevassed mahogany floor, cracks reaching out like ancient scars, as it rests peacefully, deep in a slumber, just as it has been for years and years.*

#2 "Edithcolea grandis and wildflowers warped the flamboyant peacock feathers printed on the velvety leopard-like fur of the fabric carpet as they bloomed." Strengths:

- Rich descriptive details of the carpet's pattern
- Creative blend of nature elements

Weakness: Sentence flow → Your sentence packs too many details in one go, making it hard to follow the main idea about the carpet's pattern.

Exemplar: *The blooming Edithcolea grandis and wildflowers intertwined with the carpet's flamboyant peacock feathers, creating a striking pattern on its velvety, leopard-like surface.*

#3 "Then, first came the wriggle, a worm yearning restlessly for freedom from the soul of the carpet. Then the flap of a wing, an eagle ready to take flight." Strengths:

- Builds tension effectively
- Creative use of animal imagery

Weakness: Repetitive sentence starts → Your sentences both begin with "Then," making the writing less dynamic.

Exemplar: *First came the wriggle, a worm yearning restlessly for freedom from the soul of the carpet. Suddenly, a wing flapped - an eagle ready to take flight.*

■ Your magical story shows creativity in bringing an ordinary object to life. You could expand on the emotional journey of the carpet - why did it choose this moment to fly? Consider adding more details about what the carpet might be seeking or fleeing from. Try developing the build-up to the carpet's flight with more suspense.

Actionable task: Rewrite the second paragraph focusing on building tension gradually before the carpet takes flight, including the carpet's motivation for escaping.

Score: 37/50

Section 2:

#1 ~~The carpet spread~~ [The carpet spreads] its wings on the crevassed mahogany floor, cracks reaching out like ancient scars, as it rests peacefully, deep in a slumber, just as it has been for years and years.

#2 Edithcolea grandis and wildflowers warped the flamboyant peacock feathers printed on the velvety leopard-like fur of the fabric carpet as they bloomed.

#3 ~~Then, first came~~ [First came] the wriggle, a worm yearning restlessly for freedom from the soul of the carpet. ~~Then the~~ [Suddenly, a] flap of a wing, an eagle ready to take flight.

It must've been the wind. It must've. Magic carpets aren't real. Yet, as if bubbles had formed underneath the rug, the carpet began to rise, as if someone had cried 'Wingardium Leviosa' at it. First a centimetre ~~of~~ [off] the ground, then with a sudden surge, steadily it shot at the plastered ceiling, its intricate patterns and colours catching the light. Then, it was gone. A ~~spee~~ [speck] in the sky, a golden trail of thread danced beside the magical carpet in the breeze, as it flapped its wings steadily in the sky taking on its flight. It was alive.

WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "Deep beneath the city, far from the ceaseless hustle, Aiden found himself in a pitch-black alley, staring at a mystical door hidden in a gnarled concrete wall. It pulsed with an eerie blue glow, the only light in the tenebrous street." Strengths:

- Strong scene-setting with vivid sensory details
- Effective use of mysterious atmosphere

Weakness: Limited physical description of surroundings → Your opening focuses mainly on the door, but the alley and city environment need more details. Words like "pitch-black" and "tenebrous" tell about darkness but don't show how it affects Aiden's movement or feelings.

Exemplar: ***Deep beneath the bustling city streets, Aiden stumbled through a pitch-black alley, his shoulders brushing against cold, damp walls as he approached a mystical door emerging from gnarled concrete.***

#2 "He pressed his forehead against the ancient gateway above a large crack, trying to peer through it, coughing as dust particles filled the air." Strengths:

- Good use of physical actions to show curiosity
- Nice inclusion of sensory detail with the dust

Weakness: Shallow emotional depth → Your piece shows what Aiden does but not what he feels while doing it. When he presses his forehead and coughs, we don't know if he's scared, excited, or nervous.

Exemplar: ***His heart racing with anticipation, Aiden pressed his forehead against the ancient gateway, squinting through a large crack as musty dust filled his lungs, making him cough and shiver.***

#3 "Without thought, he turned the knob. The door creaked open, as if pulled from a nightmare, revealing a world beyond that Aiden had never seen before." Strengths:

- Strong use of suspense
- Effective ending that creates curiosity

Weakness: Rushed conclusion → Your ending moves too quickly from turning the knob to seeing the new world. The moments between these actions could build more tension.

Exemplar: *His fingers moved of their own accord, turning the knob with agonising slowness. The door released a deep groan, like a creature waking from ancient slumber, and swung open to reveal a world that defied everything Aiden knew to be real.*

■ Your writing creates an intriguing start to what could be a longer story. The mystical door and its strange properties grab attention, but you could dig deeper into Aiden's thoughts and feelings throughout the scene. The piece feels like a quick glimpse rather than a full scene. You could expand each moment to build more tension and give readers a stronger connection to Aiden's experience.

Actionable task: Rewrite the moment when Aiden first touches the doorknob, focusing on his physical sensations and emotional state. Include at least three specific details about how his body reacts to the contact.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 Deep beneath the city, far from the ceaseless hustle, Aiden found himself in a pitch-black alley, staring at a mystical door hidden in a gnarled concrete wall. It pulsed with an eerie blue glow, the only light in the tenebrous street. #2 ~~Aiden squinted at the colossal sapele wood door, its surface lined with fissures and crevices, shrouded in thick dust that swirled in the air.~~ [Through the darkness, Aiden squinted at the colossal sapele wood door, its surface lined with fissures and crevices, as thick dust swirled in the air.] He pressed his forehead against the ancient gateway above a large crack, trying to peer through it, coughing as dust particles filled the air. What lay behind the door? What would happen if he opened it? The questions swarmed his mind.

Unable to resist, his hand trembled toward the doorknob, as if it had a mind of its own. His fingers brushed the cold, rough surface, feeling the splinters dig into his skin. The light intensified, casting shadows around him. A raspy whisper filled his ears, "Open it."

~~Aiden's breath caught then quickened.~~ [Aiden's breath caught in his throat, then quickened.] The whispers grew, demonic voices straining in the air, filling his head with sharp whispers ~~Without thought,~~ [Mindlessly,] #3 he turned the knob. The door creaked open, as if pulled from a nightmare, revealing a world beyond that Aiden had never seen before.

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 (Money to improve community) Strengths:

- Clear structure showing three distinct areas for community improvement
- Thoughtful consideration of both education and health facilities

Weakness: Limited detail in implementation → Your response would benefit from specific examples of how you would improve schools and recreational facilities. Phrases like "improve facilities" and "upgrade recreational facilities" are quite broad. Adding concrete details about which specific improvements you would make would strengthen your answer.

Exemplar: ***"I would allocate £50,000 to install smart boards in classrooms and update the science labs with new microscopes and equipment, while £30,000 would go towards renovating the community pool with new changing rooms and improved accessibility."***

#2 (Conflict resolution) Strengths:

- Logical step-by-step approach to solving conflicts
- Shows good leadership and maturity in handling disputes

Weakness: Lack of specific mediation techniques → While you mention "kindly ask questions" and "politely express opinions", your answer could include actual examples of questions you would ask or specific techniques for finding common ground between the parties.

Exemplar: ***"I would ask each person to explain their perspective using 'I feel' statements, and then help them identify points they agree on before working towards a compromise."***

#3 (Teaching music) Strengths:

- Shows prior teaching experience
- Includes consideration of different student abilities

Weakness: Vague lesson planning approach → Your answer mentions "figure out a plan" but doesn't provide details about what activities or teaching methods you would use. The phrase "learning as well as engaging and having fun" needs more specific examples.

Exemplar: ***"I would start with a 15-minute rhythm exercise where students create their own beats, followed by group work where more experienced students could help beginners learn basic notation."***

■ Your answers show good basic understanding of leadership and responsibility. To make your responses more compelling, try adding specific examples and details about how you would implement your ideas. For instance, when discussing community improvements, mention exact facilities you would upgrade or specific programmes you would introduce. Your answers could be longer to allow room for these details.

Actionable task: Rewrite your first answer about improving the community, this time including at least three specific examples of improvements you would make to schools, with approximate costs for each.

Score: 3/50

Section 2:

#1 If I was given a large sum of money to improve my community I would use a portion of the money to improve facilities and technology in local schools, ensuring that children have the best education possible, in a school where they are comfortable and happy. ~~I would use some of the money~~ [Another portion would go towards] to upgrade recreational facilities, like gyms and pools. This will make these places more welcoming, encouraging people to stay fit and healthy. I'd donate the rest of the money to charity, to help people who are in need, so that the community can be a happier place.

#2 If a conflict arises between some classmates or teammates, I will take the responsibility to try to settle the dispute. ~~Firstly, I will need to remain calm and kindly ask questions about the argument.~~ [First, I will remain calm and ask specific questions to understand the situation.] After letting both sides have a say, I will politely express my opinions towards the quarrel. ~~I will help to calmly sort out a solution~~ [Together, we will work towards finding a solution] that will make both the classmates or teammates happy. If I can't find a solution, I will get a teacher to help solve the argument. Once we have figured out a solution, I will make sure they apologise to each other with respect.

#3 If I ~~was~~ [were] to teach a subject for a day, I ~~will~~ [would] teach music. This is because it is the subject I know most about, and have experience teaching it before. It is also because at my school, students are often most unsatisfied with the quality of the music teaching staff. ~~First of all~~ [To begin], I will consider all the students' abilities and interests in the subject. Then I will figure out a plan for the lesson that will suite each student before the lesson start[s]. ~~I will need to make sure that each student is learning as well as engaging and having fun!~~ [I will ensure each student

is actively learning while enjoying the lesson.] At the end of the lesson, I will help the students review the material that they have learnt.