

- WRITING PIECE 1 -

Section 1:

#1: "She felt the ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storms below still whispered secrets to those who dared listen. Was this map the key to finding the old Spanish shipwreck?"

Strengths:

- Creates intrigue through sensory details with map carving
- Sets up mystery effectively with the shipwreck mention

Weakness: Limited scene development → Your opening could benefit from more details about the protagonist's emotional state and motivation. The questions feel disconnected without context about why she's searching for this particular shipwreck.

Exemplar: *As her fingers traced the ridges of the wooden map, her heart raced with anticipation. The storms below whispered ancient secrets, and she knew the Spanish shipwreck's treasures waited in those depths.*

#2: "The crisp pieces of brown paper were like wisps of smoke, seemingly hanging to the book by a single thread. Worst of all, the old paper seemed like it would crumble into a million pieces with the slightest touch."

Strengths:

- Vivid imagery of the fragile paper
- Good use of simile with "wisps of smoke"

Weakness: Repetitive description → Your description repeats the paper's fragility without advancing the story. The phrases "seemed like" appear too close together, making the writing less engaging.

Exemplar: *The ancient pages hung delicately from the spine like wisps of smoke, threatening to dissolve at the slightest breeze.*

#3: "She got up and walked around her cabin, it had transformed into a research lab, as soon as she planted all her books and equipment down on her table, the velvet carpet shone brightly, caught by the dim light of the buzzing light bulbs above."

Strengths:

- Interesting contrast between cabin and research lab
- Good attempt at setting description

Weakness: Unclear transition → Your sentence structure makes it hard to follow the scene change. The description jumps between different elements without clear connection.

Exemplar: *Her cabin had become an impromptu research lab, with books and equipment covering every surface. The dim bulbs overhead cast a soft glow on the velvet carpet below.*

■ Your writing shows promise in creating atmosphere and mystery. The blend of historical elements with the protagonist's quest makes for an engaging premise. To strengthen your narrative, try focusing on your character's emotional journey alongside the physical description. The ending with the appearing handwriting offers a great hook, but you could build up to it more gradually. Consider how each detail moves your story forward and connects to your character's goal of finding the shipwreck.

Task: Rewrite the cabin transformation paragraph (#3) focusing on showing the gradual change from sailing vessel to research space through your character's actions and observations.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 She felt the ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storms below still whispered secrets to those who dared listen. Was this map the key to finding the old Spanish shipwreck?

It was tough, carving the map out of wood, occasionally getting blisters in her palms, or getting poked by the rough edges, but the ancient book had advised her to carve out of wood, and she could see why.

#2 The crisp pieces of brown paper were like wisps of smoke, seemingly hanging to the book by a single thread. Worst of all, the old paper seemed like it would crumble into a million pieces with the slightest touch.

The smell of the sea seemed to erupt from the pages, as she turned them one by one hoping to find the location of the ship wreck, ~~it~~ [the book] said ~~was~~ "X marks the spot of my ship, as it sinks into the gloomy depths, I shall follow!"

#3 ~~She got up and walked around her cabin, it had transformed into a research lab, as soon as she planted all her books and equipment down on her table,~~ [She walked around her cabin, which had transformed into a research lab since she had arranged her books and equipment on the table.] the velvet carpet shone brightly, caught by the dim light of the buzzing light bulbs above.

She looked onward, the ocean around her looking as dangerous as ever, as though it could swallow her and her crew, into its murky depths. A sudden wave crashed onto the hull of the boat, causing her to drop the book. The fragile book landed with a gentle thud on the floor in a puddle of water. She froze in horror hoping the paper was still readable, but as she picked it up, she was shocked to see old handwriting appearing on the now ~~Soggy~~ [soggy] paper.

- WRITING PIECE 2 -

Section 1:

#1: "In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the crowd gasped at the intricate sculpture, unaware it was created by the one thing they feared most."

Strengths:

- Your opening line creates mystery and suspense
- Your use of sensory details with "soft glow" sets the scene effectively

Weakness: Limited context establishment → Your opening lacks clear setting details. While mentioning an "alien sunset," you don't ground readers in the time period or specific location of Troy.

In the crimson glow of the setting sun over the walls of Troy, the crowd gathered around the mysterious sculpture, unaware of the Greeks' deadly deception.

#2: "The sculpture was a massive horse, made of oak wood, and the bottom was on a flat rigid stone platform, and it shimmered in the sunrise."

Strengths:

- Your physical description helps readers picture the horse
- Your mention of materials (oak wood, stone) adds realism

Weakness: Repetitive sentence structure → Your sentence uses "and" multiple times, making it choppy. "The bottom was on" feels unclear compared to saying "it stood upon" or similar phrasing.

The colossal wooden horse towered above them, its oak frame gleaming in the light as it stood proudly upon its stone foundation.

#3: "That night, the townspeople cheered and bellowed, celebrating their victory in the war against the Greeks, eating and drinking, but as soon as the town was asleep, they were in for what would be their last night."

Strengths:

- Your build-up of tension is good
- Your foreshadowing creates suspense

Weakness: Rushed pacing → Your transition from celebration to doom happens too quickly. The contrast between joy and coming danger needs more development.

Throughout the night, wine flowed freely as the people of Troy celebrated what they thought was their victory, unaware that their joyous feasting would soon turn to terror.

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating atmosphere and tension, but needs deeper development of the scene and characters. You could strengthen your writing by taking more time to build the moment - show the guards' specific actions, describe the townspeople's conversations, or detail the celebration's sounds and smells. The ending feels rushed when it could be a powerful moment of contrast between celebration and coming doom. Consider adding more specific details about Troy itself to help readers feel more connected to the setting.

Actionable task: Rewrite the celebration scene focusing on specific sensory details - include what people are eating, drinking, saying, and doing to make the revelry feel more real before the dark turn.

Score: 38/50

Section 2:

In the soft glow of the alien sunset , the crowd gasped at the intricate sculpture, unaware it was created by the one thing they feared most. Guards lined the perimeter of the structure, and everyone was discussing what it meant. ~~The sculpture was a massive horse, made of oak wood, and the bottom was on a flat rigid stone platform, and it shimmered in the sunrise~~ [The massive horse sculpture, crafted from oak wood, stood upon a rigid stone platform, shimmering in the sunlight]. However ~~the grandness of the structure was hiding its true dangers~~ [beneath its grandeur, the structure concealed deadly secrets]. The Trojans were tired and weary of the Greeks, so when a man came out of the woods announcing that the Greeks had turned back, they celebrated, and yelled in triumph. ~~That night, the townspeople cheered and bellowed, celebrating their victory in the war against the Greeks, eating and drinking, but as soon as the town was asleep, they were in for what would be their last night~~ [That night, the townspeople cheered and feasted, celebrating their supposed victory over the Greeks, unaware that as they slept, their fate would be sealed].