

## - 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. Lightning tore across the sky, casting grey shadows through the mauve silk curtains that Hopper's grandmother had weaved."

Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details create an atmospheric opening
- Strong imagery with the personification of storms whispering secrets

Weakness: Limited context → Your opening leaves readers wondering about crucial details like why Hopper is carving a map and what storms she's referring to. The connection between the map carving and the storm needs more development.

Exemplar: *She traced the ridges of the mysterious map with trembling fingers, knowing that deep beneath the raging storm, secrets lay hidden in the underground pipes that could change everything.*

#2 "Hopper was a kid whose heart blossomed out to mysteries like a flower. She had a cleft lip with tousled orange hair and a pair of mismatching dimples."

Strengths:

- Unique character description
- Creative simile comparing curiosity to a flower

Weakness: Underdeveloped character introduction → Your character introduction feels rushed. While you mention physical traits, you haven't shown how these traits affect Hopper's life or personality. The flower simile needs more connection to the story's theme.

Exemplar: *Mysteries drew Hopper in like a flower reaching for sunlight. Despite her cleft lip and mismatched dimples that made other children stare, she never let anything stop her from pursuing her curiosity.*

#3 "That is the key to the underworld!" purred Mrs Whatsit, her frail hands clutching a timber-carved key that Hopper had never seen before. Then something caught her eye. Etched in the key was the numbers 911."

Strengths:

- Intriguing plot development
- Good use of suspense with the mysterious key

Weakness: Unclear plot progression → Your introduction of the key feels sudden. The connection between the map, Mrs Whatsit, and the key needs more build-up. The significance of 911 isn't explained clearly.

Exemplar: *"This key opens more than just doors," Mrs Whatsit whispered, her weathered hands trembling as she revealed the ancient timber-carved key. Hopper's heart raced as she spotted the numbers 911 etched into its surface - the same numbers she'd seen on her mysterious map.*

■ Your narrative shows promise with its unique premise about an underground world and a mysterious key. You've created an interesting character in Hopper, but you need to develop her story more deeply. Try to connect the various elements - the map, the storm, Mrs Whatsit, and the key - more smoothly. Your descriptions paint vivid pictures, but remember to explain why these details matter to the story. Think about building tension gradually rather than introducing too many mysterious elements at once.

Actionable task: Rewrite the scene where Hopper discovers the key, focusing on building a stronger connection between the map she was studying and Mrs Whatsit's appearance with the key.

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**Score: 39/50**

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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. Lightning tore across the sky, casting grey shadows through the mauve silk curtains that Hopper's grandmother had ~~waved~~ [woven].

#2 ~~Hopper was a kid whose heart blossomed out to mysteries like a flower.~~ [Mysteries made Hopper's heart bloom like a flower in spring.] She had a cleft lip with tousled orange hair and a pair of mismatching dimples. Unfortunately, her parents were too poor to afford their life!

Everyday Hopper would lurk about in the alleyways, listening to adult gossip, but she wasn't meant to hear.

#3 "That is the key to the underworld!" purred Mrs Whatsit, her frail hands clutching a timber-carved key that Hopper had never seen before. Then something caught her eye. Etched in the key ~~was the numbers~~ [were the numbers] 911. ~~Thoughts collided in her mind like runaway trains.~~ [Questions raced through her mind like speeding trains.] How did Mrs Whatsit, the gossip neighbour[,] get her hands on this key? Would it solve their problems ~~to~~ [with] education and starvation if she got her hands on the key? But did it ~~any~~ [have any] connection with the map, she had found in her musty corner? A tingling sensation rose in her hands...

## - 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. The sun melted over the horizon, casting delicate shadows on the sculpture."

#### Strengths:

- Your vivid sensory details create a mysterious atmosphere
- Your use of contrast between beauty and fear adds depth

Weakness: Limited context → Your opening lacks background about why the crowd fears this "one thing." The phrase "the one thing they feared most" leaves readers wondering without enough context to understand the significance.

Exemplar: *In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the villagers gathered around the intricate sculpture, their faces a mix of wonder and terror - these were the same robotic beings they had feared since the first invasion.*

#2: "Five small robots had clunked around their city, their bodies coated with dusty yellow paint with two adorable eyes. Communicating in a metallic voice, they had woven a beautiful sculpture that used candle wax."

#### Strengths:

- Your description of the robots brings personality to them
- Your creative choice of using candle wax as a medium is unique

Weakness: Underdeveloped scene → Your description moves too quickly past the robots creating the sculpture. The phrase "they had woven a beautiful sculpture" skips over what could be an engaging scene showing their process.

Exemplar: *The five small robots worked tirelessly through the night, their metallic voices humming in harmony as their delicate hands shaped the warm candle wax into intricate patterns.*

#3: "An oozing yellow substance had dissolved from the sculpture, as the sun glowered at it. A faint fragrance wafted into his nose as he stared at the substance morph into creatures."

#### Strengths:

- Your build-up of tension is effective

- Your use of sensory details adds to the horror element

Weakness: Rushed climax → Your transition from sculpture to danger happens too abruptly. The phrases "substance morph into creatures" and "slowly sank below the substance" need more development to create proper horror.

Exemplar: *As the sun's rays intensified, Leon watched in horror as droplets of yellow wax began to slide down the sculpture, pooling at its base. The sweet scent growing stronger as the puddle writhed and twisted, taking on horrifying new forms.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in building a unique sci-fi horror story. The concept of creativity being feared by the village creates an interesting backdrop, but you could develop this theme more thoroughly. The robots' intentions and the village's fear of creativity need a stronger connection. Consider expanding on why the village fears creativity and how this connects to the robots' actions. The transformation scene could benefit from slower pacing to build more suspense. You've created interesting elements but need to weave them together more smoothly.

Actionable task: Rewrite the transformation scene (where the wax begins to melt) focusing on building tension gradually through more detailed descriptions of how the substance changes and the villagers' mounting fear.

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**Score: 40/50**

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Section 2:

#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. The sun melted over the horizon, casting delicate shadows on the sculpture. #1 Leon observed a looming sculpture like a sentinel, ~~towering over their village filled with creative whirls~~ [which towered over their village, filled with creative whirls], stripes and geometric patterns. Candles had been placed around the statue. The village had chastised creativity as it had been a symbol of bad luck. Leon, ~~a kid piqued of curiosity~~ [a curious child,] thought to himself. Who could have made ~~this such creative~~ [such a creative] statue? Aliens or one of the villagers? What would happen? Thoughts whirred in Leon's mind like runaway trains.

#2 A day ago, Earth had granted permission for some aliens from Planet Dynamics to ~~aboard~~ [board] the Earth. The Martian ground shook, as a huge spaceship landed nearby the village. Five small robots had clunked around their city, ~~they~~ [their] body coated with dusty yellow paint with

two adorable eyes. Communicating in a metallic voice, they had woven a beautiful sculpture that used candle wax. Then the sculpture towered there, in the middle of the village after they had left.

#3 ~~An oozing yellow substance had dissolved~~ [A yellow substance oozed] from the sculpture, as the sun glowered at it. A faint fragrance wafted into his nose as he stared at the substance morph into creatures. Tarantulas! They crawled toward the villagers, growling and snarling. The villagers, ~~screamed and gasped for air~~ [screamed and gasped] as they slowly sank below the substance. This was [a] disaster...