

WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "Finally, my wish came true. One bright spring morning, after a huge storm that wailed like a baby's cry, I summoned up my courage and pushed through the great big oak doors that smelled like lavender perfume."

Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details with smell and sound
- Strong use of personification in describing the storm

Weaknesses: Limited emotional depth → Your writing focuses on physical descriptions but misses an opportunity to share your feelings about entering the house. When you write "summoned up my courage," you could expand on why you needed courage.

Exemplar: *Finally, my heart racing with excitement and fear, I gathered my courage. The morning after the fierce storm that had wailed through the night like a crying baby, I reached out with trembling fingers and pushed open the great oak doors, surprised by their gentle lavender scent.*

#2 "Once I was inside the cottage house, I was greeted by the waft of a damp cellar."

Strengths:

- Creates atmosphere through smell
- Direct and clear transition into the house

Weaknesses: Limited scene setting → Your sentence moves too quickly from entering to smelling. You could add details about the initial moments of stepping inside to build tension.

Exemplar: *As I stepped across the threshold into the cottage house, the floorboards creaked beneath my feet, and the musty smell of a damp cellar wrapped around me like a cold blanket.*

#3 "The frayed edges showed its history, and the patterns were like intricate artworks in an ancient cathedral."

Strengths:

- Creative comparison to cathedral artwork

- Good attention to specific details

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped comparison → Your cathedral comparison needs more specific details to help readers picture the carpet patterns clearly. What exactly made them look like cathedral art?

Exemplar: *The carpet's frayed edges told stories of countless footsteps, while its swirling patterns reminded me of the detailed stone carvings I'd seen in cathedral walls, with curves that twisted like vines and shapes that looked like angel wings.*

■ Your writing shows good use of descriptive language, but you could make your piece more engaging by adding your thoughts and feelings throughout the exploration. Try focusing on why this house interested you so much and what you expected to find inside. You could also describe more rooms to create a longer, more complete story about your adventure into the house.

Actionable task: You may rewrite your piece by adding a paragraph about what you hoped to discover in the house and your emotional journey as you explored it.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 Finally, my wish came true. ~~One bright spring morning, after a huge storm that wailed like a baby's cry, I summoned up my courage and pushed through the great big oak doors that smelled like lavender perfume.~~ [On a bright spring morning, after the huge storm that had wailed like a baby's cry, I summoned up my courage and pushed through the great oak doors, which carried the scent of lavender perfume.]

#2 ~~Once I was inside the cottage house, I was greeted by the waft of a damp cellar.~~ [Upon entering the cottage house, the waft of a damp cellar greeted me.] When my eyes adjusted to the darkness, I saw a crimson and indigo carpet with faded, flamingo colours that swirled like melted ice cream. The musty, old carpet slithered throughout the room, boasting its aged beauty, which stood out compared to the dark, wooden floorboards that reminded me of charred coal.

#3 The frayed edges showed its history, and the patterns were like intricate artworks in an ancient cathedral. The worn cotton felt surprisingly soft to the skin, showing how well the carpet was made. It also boasted a beautiful glow in the evening sun that shone through the shattered window, making me think it was magical.

In the creaking old house next to ours, I have always wondered what was held behind the huge oak doors and cream-coloured bricks that looked like a wrinkly, old man's skin.

WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "The door loomed over his skinny, bare body, like it was trying to intimidate him as it creaked like an old rocking chair, straining under the weight of a human."

Strengths:

- Your vivid personification of the door creates a strong sense of tension
- Your use of simile comparing the door's creak to a rocking chair adds depth to the scene

Weaknesses: Unclear sentence structure → Your sentence combines too many ideas at once, making it hard to follow the main point. The comparison between the door and rocking chair needs stronger connection to show how they relate to each other.

Exemplar: ***The door loomed over his skinny, bare body with an intimidating presence, its creak reminiscent of an old rocking chair groaning beneath human weight.***

#2: "The angelic, turquoise blue smoke slid under the bottom of the door, reminding him of the fossil fuels that his city coughed out every day."

Strengths:

- Your creative description of smoke using colour creates a clear image
- Your metaphor of the city "coughing" effectively shows environmental impact

Weaknesses: Contrasting imagery → Your description switches between positive ("angelic") and negative (fossil fuels) imagery without a clear purpose, which affects the mood you're trying to create.

Exemplar: ***The turquoise smoke curled beneath the door like a serpent, carrying the same toxic presence as the fossil fuels that plagued his city daily.***

#3: "As he opened the door, his breath caught in his mouth. It was beautiful, like blue heaven! There were aqua clouds everywhere, shining a light turquoise on to the world below that was full of sapphire trees and animals."

Strengths:

- Your enthusiasm in describing the scene helps readers feel the character's wonder
- Your varied use of blue shades creates a magical atmosphere

Weaknesses: Limited detail development → Your description focuses mainly on colours without exploring other sensory details that could make the scene more engaging.

Exemplar: *As he opened the door, his breath caught at the sight of paradise. Aqua clouds floated like cotton wool, casting turquoise light upon a world where sapphire trees swayed and mythical creatures roamed freely.*

■ Your piece shows good potential in creating magical scenes, but needs more depth in world-building. Try adding more details about what the animals look like and how they move. You could make your writing longer by describing how the character feels about entering this new world. Include their thoughts and feelings to help readers understand why this moment is important.

Actionable task: Rewrite the last paragraph focusing on including three different senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, or taste) to make the magical world more real to your readers.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

#1 The door loomed over his skinny, bare body, ~~like it was trying to intimidate him as it creaked like an old rocking chair, straining under the weight of a human~~ [looming with intimidating presence as it creaked like an old rocking chair straining beneath human weight].

#2 ~~The angelic, turquoise blue smoke slid under the bottom of the door~~ [Turquoise blue smoke slid beneath the door], reminding him of the fossil fuels that his city coughed out every day.

#3 As he opened the door, his breath caught in his mouth. ~~It was beautiful, like blue heaven! There were aqua clouds everywhere, shining a light turquoise on to the world below that was full of sapphire trees and animals.~~ [A beautiful blue heaven stretched before him, where aqua clouds drifted overhead, casting their turquoise light upon a world of sapphire trees and wandering animals.]

The door was made up of many types of wood, as a forest is, beautiful and diverse, but still frightening. Surprisingly though, the brass handle was new and polished, standing out like a white dove in a black cage. Many people would say that the door was like the glass in an aquarium, the only thing separating the viewer from the sea life, or in the other case, the world that the door was hiding. Summoning up his courage, he turned the brass handle and pushed the door open.