

Scholarship homework Week 2 - Writing 1+2 & Interview preparation

Last summer day

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. The air felt thick with the salty tang of the ocean and the weight of the waning season. The sun scintillating and balmy drew lofty shadows over him, whilst camouflaging subtly into the kaleidoscopic melt of the sunshine, as if it were a canvas adorned with sublime hues of crimson and indigo. The water, reflecting the ethereal tunes, rippled gently with the fading light. Lucas's fingers worked aimlessly through the grains as he built a final sandcastle, the tower crumbling with every attempt, but then, something unusual caught his touch—something solid, cool, and oddly smooth. It wasn't a rock, nor was it a shell, but a small glass jar, its surface worn and cloudy with age. Lucas hastily uncorked the jar, his heart speeding. The jar enclosed a folded piece of paper inside. The note was covered in delicate, looping symbols that shimmered like they had a life of their own. The contents were indecipherable, too strange to be just gibberish, but too familiar to be random. The ocean breeze stirred up the touch of the paper, almost being alive. Lucas shivered, looking around as if expecting someone to be watching, but there was nothing—only the endless stretch of the beach, the crashing waves, and the haunting whisper of the wind.

The stars

Every midnight, the stars above the village flickered off for exactly one minute, but only Liam seemed to notice. He sat on the edge of the porch, a blanket loosely draped over his shoulders, eyes fixed upon the heavens. The timed flicker came quickly, but vanished at that same pace, as if it were a breath held too long. The village, sound asleep, would never see it. But Liam always did. For as long as he could remember, Liam had watched the stars, utterly convinced they told him something he just could not quite understand. His father used to tell Liam he thought too much, always chasing after answers that weren't there. "The stars will not save you," he would say, his voice heavy with the weight of his own unspoken regrets. The village rested easy in its ignorance. People were content in their simple lives; the lives were in the familiar paths they tracked each and every day. But Liam could not forget the flicker. It felt like a sign. A warning. Or maybe an invitation. He was not sure. He was sure, however, that the stars were saying something, and it had to be him to cipher it.

Interview Preparation

What does being a good student mean to you?

For me, a good student is much more than good grades. Being a good student means development of curiosity, embracing challenges, and learning from failure. A good student relates themselves with the course material, bringing their knowledge learned in their classroom, to the real world, seeking chances to grow intellectually and personally. Another distinctive aspect of a good student is their self - control and awareness of their surroundings. This means that they both aren't distracted and don't coax others into being so. Ultimately, it's all about instilling a kind of mindset in the way of lifelong learning, whereby success is defined not by attainment but by growth.

What do you do when you see someone being treated unfairly?

I feel as if put upon me when someone is treated unfairly, no matter the situation. I first try to access the circumstances and the whole context, then intervene if it's safe and appropriate. It can be as basic as supporting the affected person with words of comfort, a listening ear, or standing with them in their battle for fair treatment. If the conflict is systemic or larger than I can handle, I would advocate for change and justice through peaceful means, including writing, petitions or organising. For me, justice isn't only a moral principle but a responsibility held by everyone.

If you could meet any historical figure, who would it be, and what would you ask them?

If I had the power to meet any historical figure, it would be Sir Isaac Newton, the maestro who discovered a ground-bounding force, known as gravity. To do this, Sir Isaac Newton had to be an expert in mathematics, physics and astronomy, while also giving some time for his interests, being alchemy, mysticism and theology, thus making him have a large spectrum of knowledge. Keeping this in mind, I would ask him how he managed his time across multiple places of interest. I'd also ask him what advice he would give to modern thinkers who feel confined by the specialisations that define contemporary knowledge. His perspective on integrating mathematics and science could offer valuable insights for today's complex world.