

## WRITING PIECE 1

Section 1:

#1: "Lucas was ambling upon the rippling dunes... breathtaking scenery" Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details create a strong visual atmosphere
- Effective use of descriptive language to set the scene

Weakness: Time inconsistency → Your writing shifts between past and present timeframes. The phrase "before he had to return at sunset" conflicts with "It was shortly after dusk," creating confusion about when events occur.

Exemplar: *It was shortly after dusk, and Lucas knew he should have returned to the shelter hours ago. Above him, amber clouds painted the darkening sky.*

#2: "In his cold, bare hands... residents to read it to me" Strengths:

- Good build-up of mystery with the bottle discovery
- Natural integration of character thoughts

Weakness: Unclear character knowledge → Your narrative mentions "Lucas didn't know what it was called" regarding a glass bottle, but then shows him recognising writing on streets, which seems mismatched with his knowledge level.

Exemplar: *Lucas held the smooth glass bottle in his trembling hands, studying its unfamiliar shape. The paper inside bore markings similar to those he'd seen around the city - letters he wished he could understand.*

#3: "Lucas' mind envisioned... memory of his mother" Strengths:

- Powerful emotional backstory revelation
- Effective use of flashback technique

Weakness: Rushed emotional development → Your flashback sequence moves too quickly between different memories without fully developing their emotional impact. The transition from "fine linen cloth" to "midnight black" needs more connection.

Exemplar: *The memory washed over Lucas like a wave - first came the softness of his baby blanket, then the crushing darkness of that final night. His mother's desperate cries still echoed in his mind as she thrust the suitcase towards him.*

■ Your narrative presents an intriguing story about family inheritance and self-discovery. You could enhance the emotional depth by spending more time exploring Lucas's feelings about his past and present situation. The ending feels quite sudden - try expanding on how Lucas processes this life-changing discovery and what it means for his future.

Actionable task: Rewrite the flashback paragraph focusing on one specific memory, ensuring you capture Lucas's emotional journey through detailed sensory descriptions and his internal thoughts.

---

**Score: 42/50**

---

Section 2:

#1 Lucas was ambling upon the rippling dunes. It was the last day of February. Lucas had decided to spend more time on the summer shore before he had to return at sunset. ~~It was shortly after dusk, and there were amber clouds above him,~~ [Shortly after dusk, amber clouds floated above him,] each cloud a stroke of paint in the bigger canvas of the sky. Lucas never took a peek at the breathtaking scenery – he should've been back at the shelter by now.

#2 As he dashed swiftly through ash-grey rock pools and the constantly receding tide, he slipped on something hard and brittle. Lucas unearthed the mysterious object from the sand. In his cold, bare hands, he saw a perfectly crafted glass bottle, which Lucas didn't know what it was called. Inside was a mangled piece of paper. ~~Its letters appeared similar to the writing on the streets.~~ [The letters resembled the writing he had seen on the streets.] However, he could not read it. *I should bring it to one of the residents to read it to me,* Lucas thought.

#3 ~~Lucas' mind envisioned~~ [In Lucas's mind, he saw] a baby, wrapped in fine linen cloth, an embrace so emollient that he could not think of anything else softer than it. ~~The next moment pictured~~ [Then came the image of] a man in midnight black, perfectly matching the sorrowful hues of the night. Lucas could hear his mother, crying for help on the street, but no one seemed to notice. She, as a last resort, hurled a suitcase at him. It was the only memory of his mother.

Lucas instantaneously sprinted to the first man he saw. He nervously asked the gruff-looking man if he could read the message. ~~He said in an excited voice that it was~~ [The man excitedly explained that he held] a formal paper of things he would inherit from his parents. The man took the

life-changing note to the court, who accepted it. A month later, Lucas would own his parents' two-storey penthouse, and rebuild his life.

## WRITING PIECE 2

Section 1:

#1: "The otherwise luminous, starry night turned into a bleak, dark abyss, precisely in one minute, every day. Liam was the only person awake in his village, doing his work as a shepherd as always."

Strengths:

- Creates a mysterious atmosphere through vivid description of the night sky
- Establishes the main character's unique position as the only witness

Weakness: Underdeveloped scene setting → Your opening lacks context about the village setting and Liam's regular routine, making it harder to understand why he's the only one awake. Phrases like "doing his work as shepherd as always" feel rushed.

Exemplar: *The luminous, starry night transformed into a bleak abyss within a minute, as it had done every day since Liam could remember. While the village slept peacefully, he kept his lonely vigil, tending to his flock under the changing sky.*

#2: "After Liam was sated from his few hours of sleep, he was in time for the festival. However, as the shorter hand of the village clock crept closer to the top, his forebodings for the villagers' reactions became worse."

Strengths:

- Builds tension effectively through time reference
- Shows character's emotional state through internal thoughts

Weakness: Limited character emotion development → Your writing moves quickly through Liam's feelings without showing deeper emotional impact. Phrases like "his forebodings became worse" need more detail.

Exemplar: *After a brief rest, Liam arrived at the festival, his heart growing heavier with each tick of the clock. As midnight approached, dread filled his chest - he alone knew what terror awaited the unsuspecting villagers.*

#3: "But Liam, a shepherd wearing ragged clothes, who had seen the phenomenon for many years, nervously stood in front of the distressed residents to try to explain it."

Strengths:

- Shows character growth through brave action
- Contrasts his humble status with his important role

Weakness: Quick resolution → Your ending rushes through the climactic moment. The phrase "try to explain it" doesn't show us what he actually says or how he calms the crowd.

Exemplar: *Despite his worn appearance, Liam found the courage to face the panicked crowd. Drawing from years of solitary observation, he shared his knowledge of the sky's predictable pattern, his quiet voice steady and reassuring.*

■ Your narrative presents an intriguing premise about a mysterious natural phenomenon, but needs deeper exploration of your character's emotional journey. Consider developing Liam's relationship with the village and his feelings about being the sole keeper of this knowledge. Adding more sensory details about the night market festival would help readers feel more immersed in the scene.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the final paragraph focusing on Liam's specific words to the crowd and their gradual shift from panic to understanding.

---

**Score: 42/50**

---

Section 2:

#1 It was exactly midnight. ~~The otherwise luminous, starry night turned into a bleak, dark abyss, precisely in one minute, every day.~~ [The luminous, starry night transformed into a bleak, dark abyss within a minute, as it did every day.] Liam was the only person awake in his village, doing his work as a shepherd as always. Yet, he was more engrossed in the cosmos, than taking care of

animals. Out of the many paradoxes that Liam pondered about, one seemed to even worry him. It was the unlikely but constant event of the stars disappearing.

#2 One afternoon, after Liam was cramped with a bustling crowd, just to reach the market, he abruptly crashed into a wooden stake. As he got back onto his feet, Liam found himself staring at a navy-blue sign, saying of a night market festival, from 11pm to 1 o'clock. The sign was several times bigger than the tiny-looking advertisements around it, remarks of consumerism and overbuying.

~~After Liam was sated from his few hours of sleep, he was in time for the festival.~~ [After a few hours of rest, Liam arrived at the festival.] However, as the shorter hand of the village clock ~~ereeped~~ [crept] closer to the top, his forebodings for the villagers' reactions became worse. By the time the clock ticked to midnight, the celestial night sky, temporarily switched off. The other people desperately cried for help, but no one seemed to know what to do.

'It's the end of the world!' yelled one villager. 'We're all going to die!' screamed another.

#3 But Liam, a shepherd wearing ragged clothes, who had seen the phenomenon for many years, nervously stood in front of the distressed residents to try to explain it. He knew the mystery would most likely never be solved, but after his calming speech, the villagers were relieved to hear that the disappearance of the stars was just an everyday phenomenon.