

- 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." Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details through tactile description
- Creative metaphorical language with storms whispering secrets

Weakness: Limited context and connection → Your opening sentence, while poetic, doesn't establish clear story elements. The mention of "storms below" and "whispered secrets" leaves your readers wondering about their significance to the plot.

Exemplar: *She traced the ridges of the ancient map with trembling fingers, knowing the storms brewing beneath its surface held secrets that could either save her family or her village.*

#2: "Annie stared blankly at her bedroom ceiling, flipping reluctantly through the many pages of her thoughts" Strengths:

- Effective portrayal of internal conflict
- Creative metaphor for thinking process

Weakness: Vague emotional state → Your description of Annie's thoughts remains abstract. The phrase "many pages of her thoughts" doesn't reveal the specific worries or conflicts she's experiencing.

Exemplar: *Annie lay on her bed, her mind racing between images of her cursed family and the desperate faces of her village elders, each memory demanding her loyalty.*

#3: "she would ensure the safety of her generation" Strengths:

- Shows character's determination
- Creates emotional impact

Weakness: Unclear resolution → Your ending leaves several plot points unresolved. The phrase "ensure the safety" doesn't clarify how Annie made her choice or what consequences followed.

Exemplar: *She would protect her family's future, but the weight of betraying her village's trust would forever haunt her decisions.*

■ Your narrative presents an intriguing moral dilemma but needs deeper exploration of Annie's emotional journey. You've created strong visual elements with the map and photos, but your story would benefit from showing more of Annie's internal struggle. Try adding specific details about how the curse affects her family and what poverty looks like in her village. You could strengthen the impact by describing Annie's physical reactions to stress as she makes her decision. Consider developing the relationship between Annie and her village elders beyond the photos to make her choice more meaningful.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the scene where Annie looks at the photos, focusing on one specific memory that shows why the village means so much to her, using sensory details to bring that moment to life.

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.

#2 Annie stared blankly at her bedroom ceiling, flipping reluctantly through the many pages of her thoughts; ~~her tense fingers curled her ebony hair into tight loops,~~ [her fingers tensely curled her ebony hair into tight loops,] before letting go as she looked back towards the map on her construction table.

The deadline tomorrow, ~~everything had been budging Annie to take sides~~ [everything was pushing Annie to choose sides] – should she give the map to the vase owner to peel the curse off her family's foreheads or should she sell it for millions of dollars to help her village in poverty? She avoided the urge to glance at the moonlight through the curtains, fearing it would speed time up: ~~but she already knew~~ [though she knew] that she would never have time to finish replicating another copy of the map.

#3 Braving the courage to look at the clock, Annie could see the minutes flying away from her as her deadline neared for the end of her decision. She watched the photos of ~~her and her beloved villager elders~~ [herself and her beloved village elders] hanging precariously on her bedroom wall and the memories flooded back into her – a picture of her walking through the school gates on her 1st day of kindergarten, her elders receiving the news Annie had gotten a free ride to a fancy school nearby, a photo of them with Annie, waiting patiently in the hospital for their turn to pay the high fees, and a photo of them mourning at her parent's mere grave with sincere depression.

The vase's curse could not be removed from her head by burning the curse and the future generations of her family would fully survive; she would ensure the safety of her generation.

- 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 an engaging atmosphere with vivid sensory details
- Your use of dramatic irony builds intrigue effectively

Weakness: Limited Context → Your opening lacks background about why the crowd fears this particular thing. The phrase "the one thing they feared most" leaves readers wondering about crucial details that would help them understand the significance of this moment.

Exemplar: ***In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the crowd gasped at the intricate sculpture, unaware it was created by an AI - the very technology their society had banned after the Great Machine War.***

#2 "Manly shuffled away and disappeared into the aweing crowd, groaning in disappointment as she realised her item was on the auction." Strengths:

- Your character's physical movement helps show her emotional state
- Your use of active verbs creates clear imagery

Weakness: Character Motivation Gap → Your introduction of Manly feels sudden. The shift from the crowd to her perspective needs more development. The phrase "groaning in disappointment" conflicts with her later dilemma about selling the sculpture.

Exemplar: ***Manly's heart raced as she melted into the mesmerised crowd, torn between pride at their reaction and dread at seeing her sculpture up for auction.***

#3 "But now, here she was, on the brink of a pitfall. On the brink of a decision between family and money." Strengths:

- Your development of internal conflict shows character depth
- Your parallel structure emphasises the character's dilemma

Weakness: Emotional Development → Your portrayal of the conflict needs more emotional weight. The phrases "on the brink of a pitfall" and "between family and money" simplify what could be a more complex moral struggle.

Exemplar: ***Each passing moment felt like torture as Manly wrestled with an impossible choice - her beloved grandparents' final days or her village's desperate need for clean water.***

■ Your narrative presents an interesting moral dilemma but needs deeper exploration of the stakes involved. You could strengthen the story by showing more of Manly's emotional journey through specific details about her relationship with both her village and her grandparents. Try adding more sensory details about the water crisis and its impact on village life. Your flashbacks about the grandparents work well, but they could be better connected to her present situation. Consider adding more immediate scenes that show her struggle rather than telling us about it.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the scene where Manly first spots her sculpture at auction, focusing on her immediate physical and emotional reactions while weaving in specific memories of both her village's struggles and her grandparents' influence.

Score: 41/50

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.

~~#2 Manly shuffled away and disappeared into the aweing crowd, groaning in disappointment as she realised her item was on the auction.~~ [Manly shuffled away and disappeared into the awestruck crowd, groaning in disappointment as she realised her item was at auction.]

She had thought her decision would have been easier but now? It was harder. She would now have to choose between accepting the money her sculpture sold by the end of this week by cash or leave it to someone else so she could fly to LA to see the last of her beloved grandparents tomorrow.

~~#3 Her fingers tensed and started fiddling with the cotton at the bottom of her shirt.~~ [Her fingers tensed as she fiddled with the cotton hem of her shirt.] Her beloved grandparents had given her half of their fortune, attended her every party despite their declining health and had held her dear since childhood. She remembered every moment she had spent with them: building her a treehouse a day after her seventh birthday in a tree that was 10 times her age, surprising her in their holiday home after she had received the news she had received an invitation to a fancy ball with the prince in that area, and her grandparents embracing her as she set off to where she was now to attend college and embrace her sculpting future.

But now, here she was, on the brink of a pitfall. On the brink of a decision between family and money. Obviously, it would be family, but receiving the money would help her village where her

parents were, supporting their declining water situation. Manly tugged nervously at her shirt again.