TERM 1 2025 | WEEK 1 - Year 5 Scholarship Essentials

Section 1:

#1. "With a smile, all the memories started flowing into my mind... The photo of a perfect pictured family from all those years was stuck into my mind."

Strengths:

- Strong emotional beginning that draws readers in
- Good use of sensory details to describe memories

Weakness: Limited development of emotions \rightarrow Your writing lists many emotions (confused, amazed, perplexed, muddled) but doesn't show how these feelings connect to the memories. The phrase "stuck into my mind" appears twice, making the writing repetitive.

Exemplar: As I smiled, memories flooded back - Dad's silly jokes echoing in my ears and the warm glow of the laptop screen as my cousin and I huddled together, giggling at our games. The old family photo held me spellbound, rooted to the spot.

#2. "Moments later, I was crying and crying on the ground... When I could be making millions and sitting on a comfy, luxurious couch living my bets time of my life."

Strengths:

- Good contrast between present and desired future
- Clear emotional impact of the photo

Weakness: Underdeveloped character motivation \rightarrow Your writing jumps quickly from crying to thoughts about making millions without showing why the photo triggered this change. The phrase "crying and crying" doesn't tell us about the deeper feelings.

Exemplar: Tears rolled down my cheeks as I clutched the photo, remembering how life once felt full of endless possibilities. Now here I was, wasting away on this old couch when I could be creating the life I'd always dreamed of.

#3. "I had to go back to parents and go relieve that moment... I compared the memorable photo and the relieved photo and I smiled."

Strengths:

- Nice circular ending returning to the photo
- Shows character growth through action

Weakness: Rushed resolution \rightarrow Your writing speeds through the reunion scene without sharing details about how it felt to recreate the photo. Words like "happy" and "over the moon" tell rather than show the emotions.

Exemplar: Standing in my parents' living room, we recreated that precious moment - my cousin and I at the laptop, Dad cracking his favourite jokes. As I held both photos side by side, my heart swelled with joy at how far I'd come.

■ Your story has a moving message about personal growth and family connections. To make it stronger, try adding more details about how the main character feels in each moment. Also, slow down important scenes like finding the photo and meeting the family again. Show us what the character sees, hears, and thinks. Additionally, build up the change from sad to determined more slowly. Give readers time to understand why the photo makes such a big difference. You could describe the couch more to show why it represents a bad situation. When writing about the family reunion, include specific jokes or games that make the moment special.

Score: 38/50

Section 2:

#1 With a smile, all the memories started flowing into my mind. All those years I tried to retrieve it [them] but it was [they were] just right in front of me. The hilarious dad jokes and the fun times on the laptop with my cousin was [were] right here. I was stuck into [in] one place like a tree in the ground. Confused, amazed, perplexed and muddled all at the same time. The photo of a perfect pictured [picture-perfect] family from all those years was stuck into [in] my mind.

#2 Moments later, I was crying and crying [I collapsed in tears] on the ground keeping my eyes glued to the photo. I though [thought] to myself "Sometimes, I wish I could go back to those days of innocence and endless possibilities, not to change anything, but to feel a few things twice." I had just begun a new chapter of my life. I new [I knew] that this old book would change my life forever. I am just an old man doing nothing with his own life. Just sits [sitting] on the hard and uncomfortable couch. When I could be making millions and sitting on a comfy, luxurious couch living my bets [best] time of my life.

This meant I had to change my life. I started to take my life saving [savings] and invest it into stocks. I also started to train and not be obese. This book, this photograph, this moment would help my life. I could not be wishing to change into my child self. I had to make my childhood worth. Day after day I started to change, my friends were shocked. One year later, after that memory, I had officially changed.

#3 I had to go back to parents [I went back to my parents] and go relieve [relive] that moment of me in my childhood. There was my cousin and I on the laptop and my Dad making humorous jokes. We wee [were] all happy and over the moon. We took a photo. I compared the memorable photo and the relieved [relived] photo and I smiled.