TERM 1 2025 | WEEK 2 - Year 5 Scholarship Essentials

Section 1:

#1: "I sat up and rubbed my eyes groggily, watching the streams of light enter my room. It was an ethereal sight, but for some reason, I didn't feel as happy as I thought I would. Something seemed... different."

Strengths:

- Strong sensory detail with the description of light
- Effective use of mood setting with the contrast between ethereal sight and unhappiness

Weakness: Limited emotional depth \rightarrow Your opening lacks deeper exploration of the character's feelings. The phrase "for some reason" makes the emotion feel vague and underdeveloped.

Exemplar: I sat up and rubbed my eyes groggily, watching streams of golden light filter through my curtains. The ethereal sight usually filled me with joy, but today an inexplicable heaviness weighed on my heart.

#2: "The key was huge. Big as a large branch. It shimmered in the sunlight, creating dazzling hues of sage green, butter yellow, royal blue and a dark, dark red."

Strengths:

- Vivid colour imagery
- Creative description of the magical object

Weakness: Disconnected description \rightarrow Your description of the key's colours feels separate from its significance. The phrase "dark, dark red" needs more meaning behind the repetition.

Exemplar: The key, massive as a fallen branch, shimmered with meaningful colours - sage green like my grandmother's garden, butter yellow like Mum's kitchen walls, royal blue like Dad's favourite jumper, and deep crimson like our old family home.

#3: "All of a sudden, thousands of memories from my family's past came rushing out, filling my mind with newfound knowledge. It ended almost instantly, and I knew in that moment, my life would be the same again."

Strengths:

- Interesting concept of inherited memories
- Good build-up to the revelation

Weakness: Rushed ending \rightarrow Your ending moves too quickly through the important moment. The phrase "ended almost instantly" doesn't give readers time to understand the impact.

Exemplar: Memories from my family's past flowed through me like a gentle stream - Great-grandma's wedding day, Dad's first bicycle ride, Mum's childhood home. As each memory settled in my mind, I understood that these precious glimpses of my family's history would forever change how I saw myself.

■ Your magical story has a fascinating premise about discovering family history through a magical key. However, you could make the story more meaningful by connecting the morning's strange feeling to the discovery of the key earlier in the story. Also, try adding more details about specific memories that come rushing out at the end. Additionally, you might want to slow down the ending to let readers feel the impact of this magical moment. You could improve the first paragraph by showing why the morning feels different. Moreover, when describing the key, try linking each colour to a specific family memory. Finally, take time to show how these memories change your character's understanding of their family.

Section 2:

#1 I sat up and rubbed my eyes groggily, watching the streams of light enter my room. It was an ethereal sight, but for some reason, I didn't feel as happy as I thought I would. Something seemed... different.

#2 I decided to go for a run. The weather looked amazing, and I loved the sensation of the breeze in my hair. It was thrilling, and I even saw some butterflies along the way. They danced with vibrant wings, swooping and diving. I smiled, humming jovially. And then, I tripped! I stumbled and wobbled, trying to find my balance, but I fell down. But the most peculiar thing was what I had tripped on. I got up slowly, my leg still throbbing. And then, I saw it. It was a key.

#2 The key was huge. Big as a large branch. [The key was huge, as big as a large branch.] It shimmered in the sunlight, creating dazzling hues of sage green, butter yellow, royal blue and a dark, dark red. I peered at it curiously, and picked it up. A tingling sensation rang in my fingers, and the key shrank! Now it could fit in my pocket. Now, which door did it open?

I searched for hours, my throat dry and hoarse. A key so big, what could it possibly open? I turned, sighing and wanting to give up. Suddenly, a huge door loomed over me. The key confidently jumped out of my pocket, became big once more, and unlocked the door.

#3 All of a sudden, thousands [Thousands] of memories from my family's past came rushing out, filling my mind with newfound knowledge. It ended almost instantly, and I knew in that moment, my life would be the same again. [I knew in that moment my life would never be the same again.]