Writing Feedback

TERM 1 2025 - WEEK 5 | Year 4 Reading Comprehension

Section 1:

#1 "Thousands of paintings scattered around the gallery like hidden homes. Just one of them got my mind twisting and turning."

Strengths: Your opening creates immediate visual intrigue with the metaphor of paintings as "hidden homes." Your personal connection ("got my mind twisting and turning") effectively draws the reader in.

Weakness: Lack of sensory context \rightarrow Your opening would benefit from establishing where you are physically. You mention a gallery, but don't provide enough sensory details to fully immerse your reader. The jump from "thousands of paintings" to focusing on just one feels abrupt without a transitional thought. Consider what specifically drew you to this particular painting among so many others.

Exemplar: "As I wandered through the hushed gallery, thousands of paintings hung like hidden homes on the stark white walls. Among them all, one particular artwork caught my eye, sending my mind twisting and turning with curiosity."

#2 "It was a painting of a pirate ship! It had white sails the colour of the moon winking at the dark sky saying goodbye to the sun preparing for another stormy night."

Strengths: Your comparison of the sails to the moon creates a vivid image. The personification of the moon "winking" adds character to your description.

Weakness: Sentence structure \rightarrow Your second sentence contains too many ideas crammed together, making it difficult to follow. You've connected multiple actions (winking, saying goodbye, preparing) without clear subjects for each action, creating confusion about who or what is performing each action. Is the moon winking or are the sails? Who is saying goodbye to the sun?

Exemplar: "It was a magnificent painting of a pirate ship! Its white sails glowed like the moon against the darkening sky, as if winking a final goodbye to the setting sun before facing the approaching storm."

#3 "The angry sea getting more and more hazardous was getting its game up, getting some sort of revenge on the pirate ship like it was attacking it to its death."

Strengths: Your personification of the sea as "angry" and seeking "revenge" creates dramatic tension. The idea of conflict between ship and sea adds depth to your description.

Weakness: Word repetition \rightarrow You've used "getting" three times in the same sentence, which creates a monotonous rhythm. This repetition weakens the powerful image you're trying to create of the dangerous sea threatening the ship. Your description could be more precise about how exactly the sea is attacking the ship.

Exemplar: "The furious sea churned beneath the vessel, swelling into treacherous waves that seemed intent on revenge, as if determined to drag the pirate ship to its watery doom."

■ Your piece shows excellent creativity in using vivid imagery to describe the painting. The way you've personified elements like the sea and captured the drama of the scene demonstrates strong imaginative thinking. To improve, try varying your sentence structures more. Some of your sentences contain too many ideas joined together, which can confuse your reader. Also, consider adding more specific details about the pirates themselves or the ship's design to make your description even more engaging. You might also think about organising your ideas into clearer paragraphs – perhaps one for the ship itself, one for the sea, and one for the sky elements. Additionally, try to create a stronger conclusion that explains why this particular painting affected you so deeply. What emotions did it stir in you? What story did it make you imagine?

Score: 37/50

Section 2:

Thousands of paintings scattered around the gallery like hidden homes. Just one of them got my mind twisting and turning. #1 There was this exquisite painting of an extraordinary pirate ship sailing above the horizon. It was a painting of a pirate ship! It had white sails the colour of the moon winking at the dark sky saying goodbye to the sun preparing for another stormy night.

#2 The angry sea getting more and more hazardous was getting its game up, getting some sort of revenge on the pirate ship like it was attacking it to its death.

#3 The clouds closing in on the ship so that once it was ready, they were going to pop. The solitary hunter of the ocean was the only source of light there. No other ship dared to sail a ship on the Drake Passage, especially at this time. It was [an] interesting but peculiar picture.