

Writing Feedback

DAY 3 | 23rd of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph)

Strengths:

- Effective opening that establishes the significance of the friendship anniversary
- Good use of reflective tone that matches diary format

Weakness: Undeveloped transition → Your transition from introducing the friendship anniversary to the flashback feels abrupt. The phrase "That ordinary September morning transformed me into something extraordinary" is confusing as it suggests personal transformation rather than a relationship beginning. There's also inconsistency with "September morning" when later paragraphs suggest this was a first day of school.

Exemplar: *Today marks ten years since I met my best friend, Ethan. Reflecting on that first day of school fills me with nostalgia, reminding me how a single encounter can shape the course of our lives. What began as an ordinary September morning became extraordinary because of a friendship that would grow to become one of the most important parts of my life.*

#2 (Third paragraph)

Strengths:

- Vivid imagery of the school environment creates an immersive scene
- Effective use of metaphor with "minuscule boat drifting slowly into a roaring sea"

Weakness: Mixed metaphors and inconsistent imagery → Your paragraph begins with a boat metaphor but then describes buildings as "tall rainbow" which creates confusing imagery. The phrase "as if they were glued to the shiny tiles" introduces a new setting element (tiles) that doesn't connect with the previous description of the playground. The sensory details don't flow cohesively.

Exemplar: *The moment we arrived at school, I felt like a minuscule boat drifting slowly into a roaring sea of activity. The colourful buildings loomed ahead—filled with*

laughter and energy. The playground buzzed with children playing tag, swinging on monkey bars, and shouting gleefully. I stood frozen at the entrance, clutching my backpack straps, my feet seemingly glued to the spot as my mind raced with questions: What if no one talks to me? What if I don't fit in?

#3 (Sixth paragraph)

Strengths:

- Good developmental arc showing the progression of friendship
- Effective use of specific shared activities to illustrate the relationship

Weakness: Repetitive sentence structure → Your paragraph relies heavily on sentences beginning with "we" followed by an action. This creates a monotonous rhythm that reduces the impact of the otherwise meaningful content. The paragraph could benefit from varied sentence constructions to highlight the different aspects of the friendship's development.

Exemplar: *From that moment on, our friendship became unbreakable. With his natural ability to make every situation enjoyable, Ethan transformed even our most nervous moments into adventures. Together, we built the tallest block towers, conducted elaborate dinosaur rescue missions at recess, and created secret handshakes only the two of us could remember. As months turned into years, this foundation supported us through every school project, scraped knee, difficult exam, and challenging life moment.*

■ Your diary entry effectively captures the emotional significance of a lasting friendship. The narrative structure works well by beginning with the present-day reflection before transitioning into the detailed flashback of your first meeting. You've included some strong sensory details that help bring the scene to life, particularly in the classroom setting. Your piece would benefit from more consistent imagery throughout and clearer transitions between ideas. Additionally, there are opportunities to vary your sentence structure to create a more engaging rhythm, especially when describing the friendship's development over time. The conclusion effectively brings the reader back to the present moment and provides a satisfying emotional resolution. You might consider expanding on how this friendship has specifically shaped your character or influenced important decisions in your life to add more depth. Also, incorporating more specific anecdotes from your ten years of friendship would strengthen the emotional impact and authenticity of your reflection.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2:

- **** Diary entry 24/4/25****
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Dear diary,

Today marks ten years since I met my best friend, Ethan. Reflecting on that day fills me with nostalgia, reminding me how a single encounter can shape the course of our lives. That ordinary September morning transformed me into something extraordinary, a beginning of a friendship that would grow to become one of the most important parts of my life.

I still remember the sunlight pouring gracefully through the kitchen window, bathing everything in a golden glow. I was at the table, nervously clinking my spoon to the cereal bowl, trying to calm the fluttering of my stomach. My mom had me dressed in my favourite red dinosaur shirt and sky blue shorts that dazzled like diamonds in the sunlight. An outfit I insisted on wearing because I believed that it gave me confidence. As I put on my brand new Spiderman backpack, the nervous excitement only grew larger.

#1 The moment we arrived at school, I felt like a minuscule boat drifting slowly into a roaring sea. The buildings loomed ahead—tall rainbow and filled with laughter and energy. The playground buzzed with children playing tag, swinging on monkey bars, and shouting gleefully. I stood quietly at the edge, clutching my backpack straps, unsure of how to take that first step into the crowd. My feet felt as if they were glued to the shiny tiles at the entrance, mind racing with questions: *What if no one talks to me? What if I don't fit in?*

Stepping ~~onto~~ [into] the classroom was like walking through a kaleidoscope of colours. Vibrant posters decorated the walls, shelves overflowed with storybooks and art supplies, and the ~~odor~~ [scent] of crayons hung in the air. Most of the kids had already found their

little groups, sharing stories ~~giggling~~ [and giggling] joyfully. I stood quietly, trying not to look lost. That's when I saw him, Ethan.

He was sitting at a table near the window, wild brown curls bouncing as he turned to look at me. His freckled face lit up with a grin, and his bright blue eyes sparkled with something warm and welcoming. Without hesitation, he waved at me. Just like that, the invisible wall around me cracked. I walked over, slowly, heart pounding, and he scooted over to make space." Wanna build with blocks?" He asked. It was a simple question, but it meant the world to me.

#3 From that moment on, we were inseparable. Ethan had a way of making every situation fun, even when we were nervous or unsure. We built the tallest block towers, ran pretend dinosaur rescue missions at recess, and invented secret handshakes only we could remember. As months turned into years, we stood by each other through every school project, every scraped knee, every exam, and every tough moment life threw at us.

We've changed a lot since then,— [-] different haircuts, taller heights, deeper voices — [-] but the core of our friendship has remained the same. Even now, ten years later, I can text him about something random and know that he'll respond in seconds with a sarcastic meme or a funny joke. We still laugh until our stomachs hurt and challenge each other to be better in ways only true friends can.

Looking back, I often wonder how different my life would be if Ethan hadn't waved at me that day. A simple act of kindness — a smile, a gesture — became the anchor for a decade of trust, joy, and growth. It reminds me that the smallest choices sometimes lead to the most beautiful outcomes.

#2 So today, I raise my imaginary glass to ten years of friendship and that brave little kid in that dinosaur shirt that dared to say hello.

Until later, —Me.