

# Writing Feedback

## DAY 3 | 16th of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

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### Section 1:

**#1: First paragraph** Strengths: Your opening paragraph effectively establishes an introspective tone through first-person narration. The unspecified nature of "something that stayed with me" creates immediate curiosity. Weakness: Lack of sensory details. → Your opening relies heavily on abstract statements without engaging the reader's senses. Phrases like "I did something" and "once it unfolded" remain vague, missing an opportunity to draw readers in with concrete imagery or sensory information. Exemplar: *"Today, my fingers trembled slightly as I reached out to help a stranger—an unexpected moment that replayed in my mind long after the train doors had closed behind us."*

**#2: Third and fourth paragraphs** Strengths: You capture the moment of action with effective pacing and simple yet impactful language. The description of the elderly man's "weak but firm" grip shows thoughtful observation. Weakness: Underdeveloped emotional response. → While you mention asking if the man needed assistance, your internal emotional reaction remains unexplored. Phrases like "I paused and asked" and "the moment passed like any other" minimize what could be a more meaningful emotional exchange. The reader doesn't fully experience how this interaction affected you in the moment. Exemplar: *"As I steadied him, a wave of unexpected connection washed over me—his weathered hand gripping mine told a story of resilience that words couldn't capture. His quiet 'thank you' hung in the air between us, somehow louder than the screeching train."*

**#3: Final two paragraphs** Strengths: Your reflection elevates a simple action to something meaningful through thoughtful introspection. The diary format works effectively for this personal realisation. Weakness: Generic conclusion. → Your conclusion relies on somewhat predictable observations about kindness. Statements like "kindness in its simplest form" and "being present for someone" feel like familiar platitudes rather than fresh insights specific to your experience. This misses an opportunity for deeper personal revelation. Exemplar: *"Tonight, as I replay that brief moment on the train, I'm struck not by my own actions, but by how quickly I'd nearly become one of those averted gazes. The man's face—lines etched by decades of similar*

*moments—reminds me how easily we can choose which parts of humanity we acknowledge each day."*

■ Your diary entry successfully captures a meaningful moment of human connection, but could benefit from more vivid sensory details throughout. The central narrative about helping the elderly man provides a solid foundation, yet your reflections could dig deeper into specific personal insights rather than general observations about kindness. Consider developing the contrast between the crowded yet isolated atmosphere of the train and the intimate moment of connection more fully. Also, you might strengthen your piece by exploring how this moment specifically challenged or changed your perspective. The dialogue, though minimal, feels authentic, but adding more specific details about the man's appearance or speech could make him more vivid to readers. Your conclusion would benefit from a more distinctive personal reflection that avoids familiar sentiments about kindness.

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**Overall Score: 44/50**

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## **Section 2:**

**Tuesday, 15 April 2025**

Dear Diary,

Today, I did something that stayed with me long after it happened. It was not planned, not something I had thought about beforehand, but once it unfolded, I realised how much a simple action can matter.

The train was packed, the usual rush-hour congestion where silence is heavy and people avoid eye contact. I was tired, distracted, thinking about everything except what was happening around me. Then, as we pulled up to a stop, I noticed an elderly man standing near the doors. He was gripping his cane tightly, his movements slow and careful, as though each step required calculation. He was struggling to board, but nobody moved. A few glanced at him and then quickly looked away, hesitant or unsure if they should help.

#1 Something in me acted before I could think twice. I stepped forward, reached for his arm, and helped steady him as he climbed onto the train. His grip was weak but firm

enough to show his determination. When he settled into a seat, I paused and asked if he was ~~alright~~ [all right], if he needed water, if someone was expecting him at his stop. He nodded and spoke softly, his words barely audible over the noise of the train, but his expression was clear. He was grateful.

#2 The train continued moving, and the moment passed like any other, disappearing into the motion of travel. But it lingered in my mind. There was nothing remarkable about what I did, nothing extraordinary, yet it mattered. It reminded me how often people hesitate, how simple acts of kindness are sometimes left undone because no one wants to disturb the routine.

#3 I began to wonder how many moments like this are overlooked, how often I have missed them before. People move through life convinced that change must be big, must be undeniable, but sometimes it is built from the smallest choices. A moment of attention. A decision to help. A reminder that in a world filled with distractions, being present for someone, even for a few seconds, can be enough.

Today, I saw kindness in its simplest form, and for once, I was the one offering it. That is what I will remember.

Until next time,

Mason