

Writing Feedback

DAY 8 | 15th of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

#1: Opening Paragraph

Strengths: Your piece opens with a striking image of the ground crumbling but the character not falling. This immediately establishes the physics-defying world and captures the reader's attention. The matter-of-fact tone ("This was normal, routine") effectively conveys how the extraordinary has become ordinary.

Weakness: Underdeveloped world-building → While you introduce the concept of altered gravity and "G-Change," you don't fully establish the rules of this world. The sudden mention of "flying northwards" and the parachute deployment feels abrupt without context. Phrases like "I deployed the reusable parachute everyone had" tell rather than show this world's uniqueness.

Exemplar: *I stepped on a pocket of air, rising one impossible step higher than where I stood. The familiar tug in my stomach signalled another G-Change as gravity shifted, pulling me northwards instead of down. I reached for my standard-issue reusable parachute—a necessity since The Change altered our world's physical laws.*

#2: The Flashback to the Family Tragedy

Strengths: You create emotional depth by revealing the character's personal tragedy. The connection between the current physics-defying world and the character's loss gives the story emotional weight and personal stakes.

Weakness: Inconsistent tense shifting → The flashback shifts between past and present tense without clear transitions. Phrases like "We fell, a normal G-Change. Nowadays. Back then, this was rare" create confusion about when events are happening. The emotional impact of the family tragedy is diminished by the fragmented sentences and sudden shift in focus.

Exemplar: *Years ago, during the first G-Change when no one had parachutes, my family and I were caught unprepared. I survived by landing on a fence, but my mum, sister and*

dad plummeted to their deaths after desperately clutching at barbed wire. What's routine for everyone now was catastrophic for us then.

#3: Introduction of the Monsters

Strengths: Your introduction of the mysterious creatures creates tension and intrigue. The specific physical details ("six eyes, 4 legs, 3 pairs of hands") help readers visualize these alien entities while maintaining mystery.

Weakness: Unclear monster-character relationship → The connection between Jackson and the monster remains confusing. The text mentions "I had seen him yesterday. He was fine" and later "two legs, which I was certain belonged to Jackson," but doesn't clearly establish what's happening. The theory about reality distortion feels inserted without sufficient development.

Exemplar: *I froze at the sight of the six-eyed creature with its armoured chest—something horrifyingly familiar in its features reminded me of Jackson. My mind rebelled against the connection. Jackson had been fine yesterday, laughing as we navigated the floating pathways together. Was he somehow being transformed by these reality-warping beings?*

Your piece establishes an intriguing world where physics no longer functions normally, creating a disorienting setting for your story. However, the narrative flow needs improvement as it jumps between concepts without fully developing them first. The relationship between the G-Change, the monsters, and their ability to "distort reality" requires more explanation to help readers understand the rules of your world. Additionally, the character's motivations and emotional journey need more development beyond the initial tragedy. Your dialogue and action sequences would benefit from clearer transitions and more descriptive language to help readers visualise this strange reality. Also, consider focusing on fewer elements but exploring them more deeply rather than introducing many concepts (gravity changes, monsters, reality distortion, and personal tragedy) without fully connecting them.

■ The narrative structure would be improved by establishing a clearer timeline between past events and present challenges. Pacing is another area to focus on, as the story accelerates quickly from the opening scene to the monster encounter without giving readers time to adjust to this unusual world.

Section 2:

Distorted Reality

The ground beneath my feet crumbled, yet I didn't fall. I didn't even gasp. This was normal, routine. I stepped on a pocket of air, one step higher than where I was already standing. Then another. And another. Gravity changed. I groaned as I flew northwards, feet first. I deployed the reusable parachute everyone had. I floated down. Putting my parachute back, I strolled along the walls of what once would have been a house. Years ago, before the accident.

#1 A single tear rolled down my face as i [I] remembered what had happened to my family. We fell, a normal G-Change. ~~Nowadays.~~ [Nowadays,] Back then, this was rare. In fact, it was the first one ever. And then, there were no parachutes. ~~it~~ [It] wasn't a long fall, and I landed on a fence, topped with barbed wire. If it hadn't been there, we would have fallen to our deaths. But my mum, sister and dad missed ~~fence,~~ [the fence,] and grabbed onto the barbed wire. They fell, plummeted. I long to join them, but people care about me. Some people only have me. I cannot go to heaven, or hell, or wherever I am destined to go.

It was a few minutes after this. After the tear. I saw it. A black creature, unlike any creature I knew, black or not. #2 I saw six eyes, 4 legs, 3 pairs of hands, and a heavily armoured chest. All black. But something about the chest was familiar. I took a step back. No. ~~impossible.~~ [Impossible.] I had seen him yesterday. He was fine. I turned and ran. I sprinted for his house, to make sure I was dreaming and he was okay.

"Come on Guys," I said to the group I was travelling with. *Was.* Where had they gone. ~~They~~ [They'd] disappeared ~~of~~ [off] the face of our strange world. I shook my head. '*They'll be safe' *I thought, I sprinted in the direction of ~~Jacksons~~ [Jackson's] home. ~~It Wasn't Far from where I had started, and it wasn't far.~~ [It wasn't far from where I had started.] I kept running, and slid to a terrifying stop inside a fallen log as I saw a monster turn the corner.

I closed my eyes, fearing the worst. This monster was different. It had a different shape, but I was more concerned with the two legs, which I was certain belonged to Jackson.

The monster took one step, tantalisingly close. Then another. Closer. And closer. And closer. Then, ~~I~~ [it] stepped over the log. I turned, and only when it was gone ~~did~~, [did] I dare to let out my sigh of relief.

#3 I started to think. Ever since, ~~The Change~~, [The Change] as it was called, there had been supposed ~~sighting~~ [sightings] of creatures like this. I was certain people were trying to pull my leg, but if they weren't, I had a theory they were able to distort reality into this wacked up version wherever they went, so that it was easier for them to hide. I snuck towards the house. Hiding here, blending in there. Five terrifying, infinite minutes ~~late~~. [later.] I was at a window of the house. Everything seemed in order. I searched everything I could from the outside.

I remembered that once, someone had come back with a piece of these ~~creature~~. [creatures.] ~~Scientist~~ [Scientists] didn't know what it was, but they made something to counter it. Then, they gave it to all the survivors. Me included. I unsheathed my sword, the item with the solution on it and then thanked my lucky stars I had dipped all my clothes in the solution. I stepped inside. I looked around. Jackson's bedroom window had been covered, so I couldn't see inside, so I went in. ~~and~~ [And] I saw no chest, no legs, only a head and arms...