

Writing Feedback

DAY 2 | 22nd of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths: Your vivid sensory descriptions create an immersive atmosphere. The metaphor of the forest as a "protective mother" effectively conveys the emotional significance of this otherworldly space. Weakness: Inconsistent perspective → Your writing shifts between first person and third person within this paragraph. The piece begins with "As I stepped" but then describes "seven resting beneath foliage hues" without clarifying who these seven are. This creates confusion about the narrator's position and relationship to these elements. Consider maintaining a consistent perspective. Exemplar: *As I stepped through the trunk of a tree into another foreign world, a gust of minty air surged through me. This forest silenced the clocks, for this place of root and branch was the dominion of eternal souls. The browns embraced me as extended limbs offered shelter, and I watched seven figures resting beneath the foliage. This forest was a protective mother, promising holy sanctuary.*

#2 (Third paragraph) Strengths: Your contrast between light and darkness creates dramatic tension. The personification of natural elements effectively conveys the ominous shift in atmosphere. Weakness: Overcomplicated sentence structure → Several sentences in this section are overly complex with multiple clauses that dilute the impact. For instance, "Though the rays of sunlight were consoled by constellations far and wide, the devil declared itself ascended" contains poetic imagery but lacks clarity about what's actually happening in the scene. The relationship between elements (sunlight, constellations, and "the devil") needs clearer development. Exemplar: *The moonlight that had played on the lake vanished completely. Though stars dotted the vast darkness above, something menacing emerged from the shadows. Astrid fumbled in the darkness, desperately searching for a trunk to lean against, praying this darkness would soon pass.*

#3 (Final paragraph) Strengths: Your conclusion brings closure to Astrid's journey with a meaningful reflection. The character's return to the real world creates a satisfying circular narrative structure. Weakness: Rushed resolution → The final paragraph attempts to resolve multiple plot elements too quickly. The process of how Astrid "pumped a gust of air into the eerie night sky" and how this action transported her home lacks sufficient detail. The revelation that oxygen was the solution comes without adequate build-up or

explanation, making the resolution feel convenient rather than earned. Exemplar: *After weeks of experimentation, Astrid discovered the key chemical reaction. Carefully mixing the fairy dust with essence of moonlight, she created true oxygen—something this artificial world had never known. As she released her creation into the night sky, the atmosphere shimmered and the boundary between worlds thinned. A sudden pull tugged at her very being, and she found herself back before the translucent trunk, gazing at a winking moon that seemed to share her secret.*

■ Your piece demonstrates strong imaginative elements and creative world-building, particularly in your sensory descriptions and the intriguing concept of a world with different physics. However, the narrative structure needs more cohesion as the plot elements sometimes feel disconnected. The shift between day and night phenomena is fascinating but could benefit from a clearer connection to the physics of this alternate world. Additionally, the character's motivations and reactions need more development to help readers understand why Astrid feels drawn to this place. Your transitions between scenes could be smoother to guide the reader through the story's progression. Also, the resolution comes too quickly without fully exploring the implications of Astrid's discovery. Consider expanding on how the character's understanding of this world's unique physics leads to her solution, making her triumph more meaningful and connected to her journey.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2:

As I stepped through the trunk of a tree into another foreign world a gust of minty air surged through me. This forest silences ~~silences~~ [silenced] the clocks, for this place of root and branch ~~is~~ [was] the dominion of the eternal soul. A hug of browns, a shelter of extended limbs, seven resting beneath foliage hues, the forest ~~is~~ [was] protective mother, the promise of holy sanctuary.

A happy arboreal flock flapped their branches in the warming wind. Their outstretched twiggy hands played with the strengthening light. Between them birds ~~did~~ [would] flitter spring, bouncing wings full wide, singing as if it were their song that commanded winter's retreat.

#2 But as the fusion of colours paled down into a vast expanse with a hint of specks of stars, denuded twigs whiplashed in the gloom. A battery of clouds sank low and lower still, until they fogged each forest-vista ~~as~~ [like a] blindfold. What was cold became freezing. What was an aromatic fragrance became a lurking malodour. What was dingy became pitch dark. No more happy melodies, only a deafening silence. The moonlight that had played on the lake silently erased itself. Though the rays of sunlight were consoled by constellations far and wide, the devil declared itself ascended. Astrid fumbled to lean against a trunk, to pray that this darkness would soon be over.

This forest ~~is~~ [was] a place of ancient souls, of the creatures who ~~used to dwell~~ [once dwelled] with the sweet sounds of moving water and bird song. But even though it seemed as though they had been turned into devils, somehow this place felt more home than home for Astrid. Maybe she would find out why, one day.

The next day, the forest became yet another orchestra of Astrid's mind, playing one enchanting symphony after another. Her leaves ~~dance~~ [danced] to an unheard beat, whispering their songs to the wind. Here, sheltered by the mighty trees, ~~is~~ [was] every kind of life, from the humble beetle to enchanting birds of every colour. She ~~holds~~ [held] her hands up to feel the cascading light, a brilliant white shaft illuminating the path that ~~takes me~~ [took her] onward and to a place that was like home.

Astrid felt confused yet amused. At night the atmosphere was so gloomy that it was palpable, yet in the light of the sun it seemed so cheerful. This continued for days until Astrid ~~realised~~ [realised] something. Maybe this had something to do with the people of this world?

As Astrid finally stepped into this world of people, she noticed there were hydrokinetics, pyrokinetics, telepaths, empaths, flashers and lots more. This was her childhood dream, but determined to fix the issue of the night she bravely stepped up and asked. ~~But her~~ [Her] requests were greeted with a mix of waving hands and people reassuring her. As they gave her a place to stay, she couldn't help but feel that something was wrong. So her next stop was the ancient library. She pushed the wooden brass door open, a fresh gust of air greeted her. As she marvelled at the intricacy of the walls, and the ornate carvings she noticed something, something strange. One of the carvings had her face on it, and it showed the gloomy nights she experienced. It also showed that she saved this world from the night. Was this just a coincidence or something more.

#3 Determined to prove herself, Astrid studied the night. And ~~noticed~~ [she noticed] that this phenomenon could be fixed with simple chemistry. She also ~~realised~~ [realised] that

this world only had artificial air, and that having actual oxygen could change that. So she got to work, using fairy dust, and many other things ~~she finally~~ [and finally] pumped a gust of air into the eerie night sky, which transported her back to the real world. Looking into the translucent trunk, she smiled at the moonlit sky that ~~seemed~~ [seemed] to wink at her. Maybe that was her legacy.