

Writing Feedback

TERM 2 | WEEK 3 WRITING | 18th May | Y5 SCHOLARSHIP

#1: Opening Paragraph “There was a day when the wind whistled across the evergreen trees, the birds chirping in a graceful symphony that echoed across the forest. Past the snuffling boars that ate under combs of feathery moss, past the berries that lay ripening under the leafy canopy of the woods and to the ears of an unfortunate boy, that was as thin as a skeleton and was cooped up in a wrought iron cage.”

Strengths: Your writing creates a vivid picture using sensory details like "wind whistled" and "birds chirping in a graceful symphony." You also effectively contrast the peaceful forest with the trapped boy's situation.

Weakness: Sentence Structure Problems → Your opening uses one very long sentence that runs together multiple ideas without proper breaks. The phrase "Past the snuffling boars...and to the ears of an unfortunate boy" creates confusion because readers lose track of the main idea.

Exemplar: *There was a day when the wind whistled across the evergreen trees. Birds chirped in a graceful symphony that echoed across the forest. Past the snuffling boars and ripening berries, the sound reached the ears of an unfortunate boy who was as thin as a skeleton, cooped up in a wrought iron cage.*

#2: Dialogue Section* "He stared at his sister, hope radiating from his face. What was this blissful miracle? What were the chances that he would be freed today? But Gretel didn't share the same excitement as him. She looked at him sadly, her eyes brimming with tears. 'I'm sorry, Hansel.' Gretel whispered. 'tomorrow, the witch will come and boil you alive. I've come to say... Goodbye.'"

Strengths: Your dialogue shows strong emotion between the siblings and creates dramatic tension. You effectively show Hansel's hope turning to despair.

Weakness: Grammar and Spelling Errors → Your writing contains several mistakes that distract from the emotional impact. "What were the chances" should be "chances," and there are punctuation problems with the dialogue.

Exemplar: *What were the chances that he would be freed today? "I'm sorry, Hansel," Gretel whispered. "Tomorrow, the witch will come and boil you alive."*

#3: Ending Section*"She had barely uttered the last word before the oven door clanged shut behind her. She looked out of the oven window, regret spilled over her face. She was no use to anyone. She tried to be a hero, but instead suffered her brothers fate. She was just a girl."*

Strengths: Your ending connects well to the title and shows character growth. The final line "She was just a girl" effectively shows Gretel's feelings of helplessness.

Weakness: Unclear Word Choices → Your phrase "regret spilled over her face" doesn't make complete sense, and "suffered her brothers fate" is missing an apostrophe. These unclear moments confuse readers.

Exemplar: *Regret filled her face as she realised her mistake. She tried to be a hero, but instead suffered her brother's fate.*

■ Your piece shows creativity in retelling a familiar story, but it needs work on sentence structure and grammar to help readers follow your ideas more easily. The emotional connection between Hansel and Gretel is strong, yet some parts become confusing due to long sentences and spelling mistakes. Additionally, you could develop Gretel's character more by showing her thoughts and feelings throughout the story, not just at the end. Also, consider adding more details about why Gretel made her choices to make the story deeper.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

Just A Girl

There was a day when the wind whistled across the evergreen trees [.] ~~the~~ [The] birds ~~chirping~~ [chirped] in a graceful symphony that echoed across the forest. ~~Past the snuffling boars that ate under combs of feathery moss, past the berries that lay ripening under the leafy canopy of the woods and to the ears of an unfortunate boy, that was as thin as a skeleton and was cooped up in a wrought iron cage.~~ [Past the snuffling boars that ate under combs of feathery moss, past the berries that lay ripening under the leafy canopy of

the woods, the sound reached the ears of an unfortunate boy. He was as thin as a skeleton and was cooped up in a wrought iron cage.] #1

He lay as still as stone, listening to the hum of the kitchen, wondering when his ~~capturer~~ [captor] would exit through the door made of gingerbread and stare at him [;] with her blood-red eyes. Struggling to his knees, he opened his eyes expecting the worst, but was instead greeted by a familiar face. It was the face of Gretel, his sister.

~~He stared at his sister, hope radiating from his face. What was this blissful miracle? What were the chances that he would be freed today? But Gretel didn't share the same excitement as him. She looked at him sadly, her eyes brimming with tears. "I'm sorry, Hansel." Gretel whispered. "tomorrow, the witch will come and boil you alive. I've come to say... Goodbye."~~ [He stared at his sister, hope radiating from his face. What was this blissful miracle? What were the chances that he would be freed today? But Gretel didn't share the same excitement as him. She looked at him sadly, her eyes brimming with tears. "I'm sorry, Hansel," Gretel whispered. "Tomorrow, the witch will come and boil you alive. I've come to say... Goodbye."] #2

Gretel walked back ~~in~~ [at] a brisk trot, hiding her quivering chin. She entered the witch's house~~,~~ [;] ~~and~~ [and] started her weekly set of chores. Her behaviour was perfect today, but was interrupted by the witch, her red eyes glinting and her mouth curling into a sly grin. "I want you to prepare Hansel's roasting [, " the witch said in a raspy cackle. "if [If] you want the key to his cage, feel free to find it. It's in the oven."

~~Gretel, possessed with a sense too powerful to describe, crossed the room, a tornado of emotion whirling within her. She opened the oven, a gust of heat almost melting her face.~~ [Gretel, possessed with a sense too powerful to describe, crossed the room, a tornado of emotion whirling within her. She opened the oven, a gust of heat almost melting her face.] Gretel grasped for the key, her legs flailing in frustration. In one desperate motion, Gretel reached for the key [,] ~~Counting~~ [counting] down the seconds before her death. Three. Two [,] ~~One~~ [one]. Now.

~~She had barely uttered the last word before the oven door clanged shut behind her. She looked out of the oven window, regret spilled over her face. She was no use to anyone. She tried to be a hero, but instead suffered her brother's fate. She was just a girl.~~ [She had barely uttered the last word before the oven door clanged shut behind her. She looked out of the oven window, regret filling her face. She was no use to anyone. She tried to be a hero, but instead suffered her brother's fate. She was just a girl.] #3