

Writing Feedback

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

#1 - Opening dialogue and character introduction:

Strengths: Your dialogue feels natural and immediately establishes the story's central conflict about the kidnappings. You've also shown Mary's character through her actions whilst listening to her mum.

Weakness: Inconsistent character voice → Your mum's dialogue shifts tone dramatically from concerned parent to oddly praising the kidnapper, which feels unnatural for someone worried about child safety.

Exemplar: *"I actually worry about how skilled this person must be to avoid detection for so long. It makes me nervous, Mary."*

#2 - Key discovery and puzzle-solving sequence:

Strengths: You've created an clever mystery element with the inscribed key and the first-letter puzzle. The pacing builds tension as Mary pieces together the clues.

Weakness: Rushed character development → Mary immediately connects Ray Thomas to the crimes without showing us how she knows his background or his dislike of children, making the revelation feel too convenient.

Exemplar: *"Mary's mind raced as she remembered Ray Thomas from down the street - the man who always scowled when children played near his house and complained loudly about neighbourhood noise."*

#3 - Resolution and rescue scene:

Strengths: You've created a satisfying conclusion where the mystery is solved and the children are rescued. The emotional impact of finding the children is clear.

Weakness: Underdeveloped consequences → The story jumps quickly from discovering the children to Ray being imprisoned without showing the investigation process or legal procedures that would realistically follow.

Exemplar: *"Over the following weeks, Ray faced trial where the evidence and witness testimonies led to his conviction and lengthy prison sentence."*

■ **Overall Comments:** Your story has a solid mystery structure with an engaging puzzle element that draws readers in. However, your piece would benefit from more character development and realistic pacing. Try expanding on how Mary knows about Ray's background and behaviour patterns. Additionally, slow down the resolution to show more realistic consequences and investigation procedures. Also, consider developing the emotional reactions of characters more fully - how would Mary really feel discovering such a terrible situation? These additions would make your story feel more believable and emotionally engaging for readers.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

~~"Mary, have you seen all these kidnapping cases?" asked Mary's mum, "They have skyrocketed!"~~ ["Mary, have you seen all these kidnapping cases?" asked Mary's mum. "They have skyrocketed!"] The worst part is that no one knows who is taking these innocent children!"

#1 Mary ~~nods~~ [nodded] wearily and ~~continues~~ [continued] to sweep the floors while her mum rambled on and on about the kidnappings.

"No one knows how they just disappeared! How is the kidnapper doing this? This is crazy. I actually, sorta praise the guy for his speed and agility. If you were as fast as him, Mary, you would be winning every single running race you do!"

#2 Mary ~~turned and just as she turned~~, [, and] she could have sworn she saw someone standing there ~~but~~ [, but] the only thing she saw was a key. Mary cautiously picked up the key and examined it. It was a beautiful rose gold key with elegant carvings ~~in them~~ [on it]. Then Mary popped the key into her pocket and thought: Have I seen this key before? Then she noticed some inscriptions on the key. When she looked closer, her heart skipped a beat. The inscriptions said: Read the first letter of every kid's name and put the ~~letter~~ [letters] together to form a name. Mary snatched the list of kidnapped children and read: Robert, Angel ~~Yuri~~ [, Yuri], Tom, Hank, Olive, Miller, Andrea and Sam.

"RAY THOMAS!" she exclaimed as she put the first names together. Ray Thomas is the one who kidnapped 9 [eight] children! Mary paused and remembered that Ray had

always disliked kids and wanted them ~~to all be gone~~ [gone]. She also remembered that he ~~has~~ [had] a shed in his backyard ~~concealed very well~~ [, well concealed]. Mary started to put the pieces together ~~until~~ [.]

"He's keeping them in his shed in his backyard."

Her mother turned around quickly, confused ~~and~~ [, and] said:

"What? Who?"

"If you check the first letter of each name ~~it forms~~, [, it forms] Ray Thomas, the really moody guy down the street! Number 32! He's the kidnapper!" cried Mary ~~while~~ [. Her] ~~her~~ [Her] fingers pointed at the names and started to tremble as she didn't know what horrible things Ray ~~will~~ [would] do ~~with~~ [to] those poor~~, poor~~ [,] kids~~**~~[.]

#3 Mary's mum stumbled back and quickly dialled ~~000~~ [000], ~~fingers skipping over the keyboard~~ [her fingers trembling as she pressed the numbers]. As the police arrived at Ray's shed with Mary and her mother, they couldn't open it until Mary placed the key in the keyhole and the door creaked open ~~revealing 9 weary and terrified eyes stared at them with hope~~ [, revealing nine weary and terrified children who stared at them with hope]. The 9 [nine] kids were skin ~~on~~ [and] bone ~~and~~ [, and] looked like they were at death's door. When they tried to jump up in joy, chains pulled them down and they stumbled back down. Everyone was mortified at the sight ~~and~~ [, and] the chief could ~~manage to say a few words~~ [only manage to say]:

"That man's going to be in huge trouble."

When Ray arrived ~~and~~ [, he] tried to lie his way out ~~but~~ [, but] due to the ~~lack of~~ [overwhelming] evidence and the victims screaming that he starved them and kept them prisoner, he was sent to prison immediately. That day, the key Mary had found saved 9 [nine] lives and mended the ~~kid's parent's~~ [children's parents'] broken hearts. From that day forward, that key was her prized possession.