Writing Feedback

TERM 2 - 2025 | WEEK 4 - Writing | Year 5 Scholarship Essentials

Section 1:

#1 Opening paragraph: "As the morning sun erupted out of the clouds, signalling for the start of a new chapter, I send my roots down into the cool earth."

Strengths: Your opening creates a strong sense of place and time with vivid imagery. The personification of the tree narrator is engaging and draws readers into this unique perspective.

Weakness: Tense inconsistency \rightarrow Your writing shifts between past and present tense without clear purpose. You begin with "erupted" and "signalling" (past tense) but then switch to "I send" (present tense). This confusion continues throughout, making it difficult for readers to follow when events are happening.

Exemplar: As the morning sun erupted from the clouds, signalling the start of a new chapter, I sent my roots down into the cool earth.

#2 Middle section: "I hear a sound, the rustle of bushes, but no snap of branches or evil maniac laugh of the city-livers. All is safe, I thought."

Strengths: You create tension effectively through the tree's cautious observations. The invented term "city-livers" shows creative language use that fits your fantasy world.

Weakness: Unclear sentence construction \rightarrow Your sentences often lack proper structure and clarity. Phrases like "evil maniac laugh of the city-livers" need clearer grammar, and "All is safe, I thought" mixes present tense dialogue with past tense narration confusingly.

Exemplar: I heard a sound—the rustle of bushes—but no snap of branches or the evil, maniacal laughter of the city-dwellers. "All is safe," I thought.

#3 Dialogue section: "'Hye, human! You are a human, right?' he continued at the sight of the nod, 'I want to ask you something.'"

Strengths: Your character dialogue feels natural and moves the plot forward well. The tree's formal speech pattern creates an interesting contrast with James's casual responses.

Weakness: Punctuation and formatting errors \rightarrow Your dialogue punctuation needs improvement throughout. You use single quotes instead of double quotes, and many sentences lack proper comma placement and capitalisation within speech.

Exemplar: "Hello, human! You are a human, right?" he continued at the sight of the nod. "I want to ask you something."

■ Your piece shows imagination and creativity in its unique perspective of a talking tree narrator. The fantasy elements and environmental themes give your story depth and meaning. However, your writing would benefit greatly from consistent tense usage throughout the entire piece. Additionally, focus on making your sentences clearer and easier to understand by checking grammar and punctuation carefully. Your dialogue needs proper formatting with double quotes and correct punctuation marks. Also, work on smoother transitions between different parts of your story so readers can follow along more easily. Consider breaking up very long sentences into shorter ones for better readability. Your creative ideas are strong, but clearer writing will help readers enjoy your story much more.

Overall Score: 39/50

Section 2:

As the morning sun erupted out of [from] the clouds, signalling for [the start of] a new chapter, I send [sent] my roots down into the cool earth. The soil nurtures [nurtured] my stems, donating [providing] water all around me. My relatives haven't woken [hadn't woken] up from their slumber yet, and I am [was] the first to regain consciousness after the great attack of [on] the fields. I can [could] still imagine it – the evil mutations of monkeys spilling their orange dust everywhere. It spread like a virus and took many lives. We have [had] had to use our methods. Happily, no humans were hurt. But that was a mistake. They returned every week, especially in summer, and burned our bodies like crazy [mercilessly]. Some elders were transformed into charcoal with a power none of us trees will [would] ever understand. Or so we thought.

I hear [heard] a sound, the rustle of bushes, but no snap of branches or evil maniac [maniacal] laugh of the city-livers. All is safe, I thought ["All is safe," I thought]. I looked behind me and saw something horrible — a human. Wait, no. It must be [have been] another monkey from the younger trees [;] otherwise [,] a few thousand of my branches would have disappeared by now. I decided to speak to it, as animals and plants where [were] the only living things that can [could] understand us~~.~~ [,] If [if] you include

[included] the humans as living things. It seems [seemed] as if they are [were] possessed by that weird spirit my forty-seventh ancestor was possessed by. Real damage to us. So then, every living thing can [could] understand us [,] as no human being is [was] living.

Who is thee?' ["Who are you?"] I thundered. 'It is I, James! Wait, do trees speak?! I swear my older bro did something to my phone when I was staring at him so I could imagine this' ["It is I, James! Wait, do trees speak?! I swear my older brother did something to my phone when I was staring at him, so I could be imagining this"]. 'I AM REALLY SPEAKING, MR MONKEY!" ["I AM REALLY SPEAKING, MR MONKEY!"] the tree yelled so loud his sleeping relatives almost woke up. 'Strong curse, big brother"]. 'Look, are you even a monkey? You act very uncivilised for one!" ["Umm... I'm not.' ["Umm... I'm not."] The tree was dumbfounded. If this creature wasn't a monkey, what was it? And [An] ape? But suddenly the thought struck the ancient one — it could have been a civilised [civilised] human! It could be one of the humans who went for [to] conservation clubs or something like that! Wait, he realised, then I could get him to help us trees! [Wait, he realised, I could get him to help us trees!]

'Hye, human! You are a human, right?' [#3 "Hello, human! You are a human, right?"] he continued at the sight of the nod [.] 4 ["I] want to ask you something. Can you help us ancient trees? Your kind have been trying to destroy us for the past millennia, but we have stood strong. We are a significantly powerful species, and we have survived dangers even you cannot think of. If we died, you would not have such an amazing species of tree, trillions of years old, and almost unidentified on [in] our full magic by humans, and you would not have any of us left to study! So I ask one simple favour of us [you], and I shall give you a lot in return. Help us stay safe. We shall not turn you into one of us, but we can grant you equivalent power. Power beyond anything you can imagine. Do you agree?'-

'I agree,' ["I agree,"] James said after a pause [.] 'But ["But] I don't want you guys [to] kill humans [."] 'Whatever ["Whatever] you ask for' [for,"] the tree answered peacefully, triumph gleaming inside his trunk, overflowing him and his branches.

40 YEARS LATER...

'Thank ["Thank] you, James, for all of your kind services. And now, what you wanted at the start of our miraculous journey [."] He saw his new befriended [befriended] human glowing with power. And with a smile, his friend for [of] 40 years was gone.