Writing Feedback

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

## **Section 1:**

**#1** - Opening paragraph: "The Rosemeres have watched over me for decades, year after year. I have witnessed tears, happiness, and quiet moments of joy as each generation came and went. I stand as the silent guardian of their land, feeling what they feel, because I am part of their family."

**Strengths:** Your opening creates a strong emotional connection by showing the tree as part of the family. You establish the narrator's unique perspective clearly from the start.

**Weakness:** Vague emotional descriptions  $\rightarrow$  Your writing uses general words like "tears, happiness, and quiet moments of joy" without showing specific scenes or examples. This makes it harder for readers to picture what actually happened and feel connected to the story.

Exemplar: I have witnessed Thomas's tears when his father passed away, Mabel's laughter echoing through the valley on summer afternoons, and the quiet pride in their eyes during family gatherings beneath my branches.

#2 - Middle section: "For many years, I waited in silence, until one day, a familiar scent filled the air. Thomas had returned – this time with his little daughter, Mabel. Like her father before her, Mabel came to visit me every day. She ran and laughed around my trunk, her footsteps light and joyful."

**Strengths:** You create a nice connection between generations by showing how the pattern repeats. The sensory detail of "familiar scent" adds depth to your writing.

**Weakness:** Rushed character development  $\rightarrow$  You move through Mabel's entire childhood in just a few sentences without showing her personality or what made her special. The phrase "She ran and laughed around my trunk" tells us what she did but doesn't help us understand who she was as a person.

Exemplar: Mabel would arrive each morning with wildflowers tucked behind her ear, chattering about her dreams of becoming a teacher whilst she traced patterns in my bark with her small fingers.

#3 - Conclusion: "I have watched five generations pass through my shade, filling the air with love, laughter, and song. Though time will continue to flow, and my roots may one

day grow weak and frail, the memories the Rosemere family and I have shared will live on – irreplaceable, and forever held in my heart."

**Strengths:** Your ending brings the story full circle and shows the lasting bond between the tree and family. You use touching imagery with "roots may one day grow weak and frail."

**Weakness:** Missing concrete details  $\rightarrow$  You mention "five generations" but only show us two people clearly (Thomas and Mabel). The phrase "filling the air with love, laughter, and song" sounds nice but doesn't give readers specific memories to hold onto.

Exemplar: I have watched Thomas's son carve his initials beside his father's, seen Mabel's children climb my lowest branches whilst she shared the same stories Thomas once told me, and felt their great-grandchildren's tiny hands press against my bark during family picnics.

■ Your piece tells a beautiful story about connection across time, and the idea of using a tree as narrator is creative and touching. The emotional heart of your writing is strong, and you show genuine understanding of how families bond with special places. However, your writing would benefit from adding more specific details and concrete examples instead of general statements. Additionally, you could develop each character more fully by showing their unique personalities and what made them different from each other. Also, consider expanding on the five generations you mention since readers only get to know two people well. Furthermore, you might strengthen your writing by including more sensory details like sounds, smells, and textures to help readers feel like they're really there. Your sentence structure is mostly clear, but some parts could flow better with improved transitions between ideas.

Overall Score: 41/50

## Section 2:

#1 The Rosemeres have watched over me for decades, year after year. I have witnessed tears, happiness, and quiet moments of joy as each generation came and went. I stand as the silent guardian of their land, feeling what they feel, because I am part of their family.

#2 It all began in 1893, when our [my] great-great-grandfather, Thomas Rosemere, planted me as a small boy [sapling]. Every day, he would walk down to the valley to sit beside me. He told me stories, hoping his words would help me grow strong. He sang

songs and ran around me, and I would gently sway my small branches in greeting, sharing secrets no one else could hear. As Thomas grew older and became a teenager, his visits grew fewer, until one day, he stopped coming altogether. I grew taller and stronger with each passing year, just as he grew into a kind, compassionate, and responsible man.

#3 For many years, I waited in silence, until one day, a familiar scent filled the air. Thomas had returned – this time with his little daughter, Mabel. Like her father before her, Mabel came to visit me every day. She ran and laughed around my trunk, her footsteps light and joyful. When life felt heavy, she would sit beneath my branches, seeking comfort and peace. Mabel grew quickly, but even as she stepped into her early teens, she still found her way back to me during difficult times. Then, a little more than a decade later, her wedding was held beneath my very canopy. By that time, my roots had begun to feel the weight of many years. I smiled quietly at the small heart carved with the letters "M & C." I heard their vows – a promise to love and stand by each other, just like the unspoken vow between the Rosemere family and me.

I have watched five generations pass through my shade, filling the air with love, laughter, and song. Though time will continue to flow, and my roots may one day grow weak and frail, the memories the Rosemere family and I have shared will live on – irreplaceable, and forever held in my heart.