Writing Feedback

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

Section 1:

#1 "Under a warm sun, in a rolling meadow where streams whispered gently, a very old oak tree stood tall. Its twisted limbs spread far and wide like open arms, providing shade to every creature seeking shelter beneath its leafy shade."

Strengths: Your opening creates a peaceful setting that draws readers in immediately. The comparison of the oak's limbs to "open arms" effectively shows the tree's welcoming nature.

Weakness: Repetitive word choice → You've used "shade" twice in the same sentence ("leafy shade" and "providing shade"), which makes the writing feel clunky. This repetition takes away from the smooth flow of your descriptive passage.

Exemplar: Under a warm sun, in a rolling meadow where streams whispered gently, a very old oak tree stood tall. Its twisted limbs spread far and wide like open arms, providing shelter to every creature seeking refuge beneath its leafy canopy.

#2 "The first visitors came—a family of four: Mama Bird, Papa Bird, Little Robin, and their furry sibling, Tiny Twit. They buzzed with excitement as they readied themselves for their very first flight out of the protection of their nest high in the oak's arms."

Strengths: Your character names are creative and engaging for young readers. The idea of the birds preparing for their first flight creates tension and interest.

Weakness: Confusing details \rightarrow You describe Tiny Twit as a "furry sibling" when birds have feathers, not fur. This mistake confuses readers about what kind of animal Tiny Twit actually is, making the story harder to follow.

Exemplar: The first visitors came—a family of four: Mama Bird, Papa Bird, Little Robin, and their youngest sibling, Tiny Twit. They fluttered with excitement as they readied themselves for their very first flight out of the protection of their nest high in the oak's arms.

#3 "And then something magical happened: Felix returned! Now taller than ever but still having warmth within him like summer sunlight breaking winter cold! He stood before machines set to fell all that he loved most dearly—and suddenly knew what had to be done!"

Strengths: Your use of exclamation marks shows Felix's importance to the story. The comparison of his warmth to "summer sunlight breaking winter cold" creates a lovely image.

Weakness: Unclear sentence structure → The phrase "still having warmth within him" sounds awkward and doesn't flow naturally with the rest of the sentence. This makes it harder for readers to understand what you're trying to say about Felix's character.

Exemplar: And then something magical happened: Felix returned! Now taller than ever but still carrying the same warmth within him, like summer sunlight breaking through winter cold! He stood before machines set to fell all that he loved most dearly—and suddenly knew what had to be done!

■ Your piece shows creativity in bringing an ancient oak tree to life as a narrator, and you've successfully woven together different time periods to show the tree's long history. The story includes engaging elements like the bird family learning to fly and Felix's return to save the tree, which keeps readers interested. However, your writing would benefit from clearer sentence structure throughout. Many sentences feel rushed or awkward, making it difficult for readers to follow your ideas smoothly. Additionally, you could develop the emotional connection between Felix and the oak more deeply by showing specific memories they shared rather than just mentioning them briefly. Also, some parts of your story feel disconnected from each other, particularly the transition between the birds' story and Felix's return. Furthermore, your ending feels quite rushed and could use more detail about how Felix actually stops the machines and saves the tree.

Overal	l Score:	41/50
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Section 2:

#1 Under a warm sun, in a rolling meadow where streams whispered gently, a very old oak tree stood tall. Its twisted limbs spread far and wide like open arms, providing shade to every creature seeking shelter beneath its leafy shade. [Its twisted limbs spread far and wide like open arms, providing shelter to every creature seeking refuge beneath its leafy canopy.] The oak tree was as old as time itself—so ancient that it had seen many seasons come and go and many lives lived.

And when the golden light of dawn filtered between its emerald leaves, the oak stirred out of its sleep with a soft groan. [When the golden light of dawn filtered between its emerald leaves, the oak stirred from its slumber with a soft groan.] "Ah, another day so beautiful," it breathed to itself in voice [a voice] deep and timeless. It had seen many generations come and go, but this day was not the same. This day was different.

#2 The first visitors came—a family of four: Mama Bird, Papa Bird, Little Robin, and their furry sibling, Tiny Twit. [The first visitors came—a family of four: Mama Bird, Papa Bird,

Little Robin, and their youngest sibling, Tiny Twit.] They buzzed with excitement as they readied themselves for their very first flight out of the protection of their nest high in the oak's arms.

"Let them go!" whispered the old oak to himself [itself] as he [it] swayed gently in the breeze. "They are as full of hope as I once was."

Long ago—centuries before—when this land was wild and untamed by human hands, a brave young boy named Felix had climbed his [its] sturdy trunk for adventure. He sat on a branch that felt like home while sharing secrets only trees could understand. "You're my best friend," Felix had said one sunny afternoon when clouds danced lazily across the sky.

The oak remembered how Felix would carve his name into its bark—a heart with intertwined initials—and had promised to return each spring when blooms painted his world anew. But seasons turned into years; flowers bloomed and faded; Felix grew into manhood and height [and maturity] until one day he vanished from sight altogether.

Oh dear," sighed the old oak wistfully as it watched Little Robin take her very first leap into space above. ["Oh dear," sighed the old oak wistfully as it watched Little Robin take her very first leap into the space above.] "Will she fly or will she tumble?" A shiver ran through its leaves as Tiny Twit trembled on the edge of bravery at the side of her sister [beside her sister].

Suddenly! There was a deafening crack that resounded across the meadow—a shock that sent shudders through deep subterranean roots. [Suddenly, there was a deafening crack that resounded across the meadow—a shock that sent shudders through its deep subterranean roots.] The earth shook under their paws [beneath them]; something black on [appeared on] the horizon: machines! Big ones! With glinting bright lights!

"The humans are coming!" gasped a nearby squirrel and scampered up to warn his friends huddled in twigs [the branches] above.

"Those desire our nest [They want our nest]!" cried Mama Bird in anguish as she drew her chicks tighter beneath her wings.

Each passing second gripped the heart of the ancient oak with fear like vines that smothered light from entering its core. It yearned so much to protect those who sought refuge within its boughs—the memories inscribed in each ring contained cherished stories imploring [that begged] not to be left behind!

#3 And then something magical happened: Felix returned! Now taller than ever but still having warmth within him like summer sunlight breaking winter cold! [Then something magical happened: Felix returned! Now taller than ever but still carrying the same warmth within him, like summer sunlight breaking through winter cold!] He stood before machines set to fell all that he loved most dearly—and suddenly knew what had to be done!

"Stop!" Felix boldly yelled to hard hats and chainsaws of men [the workers with their hard hats and chainsaws]—as if calling forth hidden magic deep in roots that connected them all as one—years of love shared blooming once more!

And so it came to pass...ancient oak sensed power growing within—the flame of friendship ignited by hope burning hotter than any blaze ever could consume! [And so it came to pass that the ancient oak sensed power growing within—the flame of friendship ignited by hope, burning hotter than any blaze could ever consume!]

With bravery radiating through every leaf quivering softly against wind-blown whispers—the mighty tree strong [stood strong] against destiny~~,~~ [and was] determined never again to let go—to stand strong for generations yet unseen while holding dreams patiently still already [that were still] on their way...

So whenever you walk past meadows where oaks stand so tall—you'll know: sometimes words fill [speak] even more noisily [loudly] than machines yelling over fields—telling stories etched forevermore...through eyes very wide open...of an old soul embracing life eternal under blue skies forever stretching beyond horizons unknown!