

Writing Feedback

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

#1 Opening paragraph: "Chills rushed down by back, sending shivers down my spine. Trembling, my hands, clammy from perspiration, clenched into tight fists, grasping onto my soft wool pants..."

Strengths: Your piece creates an immediate sense of mystery and tension that draws readers in. You show the character's physical reactions effectively through sensory details like "clammy from perspiration" and "trembling hands."

Weakness: Unclear sentence structure → Your opening contains grammatical errors and awkward phrasing that makes it difficult to follow. The phrase "Chills rushed down by back" has a spelling error, and "Trembling, my hands" creates confusion about what is actually trembling.

Exemplar: *Chills rushed down my back, sending shivers down my spine. My hands trembled, clammy from perspiration, as they clenched into tight fists.*

#2 Middle section: "Harsh and frigid, a fierce wind blew the book open to page 64. 'My birthday!' I continued, 'the sixth of April!' I gasped in shock..."

Strengths: Your writing builds intrigue through the magical elements like the wind opening to a specific page. You connect the story to the character's personal life through the birthday detail.

Weakness: Confusing dialogue and action sequence → The dialogue doesn't flow naturally, and it's unclear why the character says "I continued" when they haven't been speaking before. The connection between the birthday and the events isn't clearly explained.

Exemplar: *A harsh, frigid wind blew the book open to page 64. "My birthday!" I exclaimed. "The sixth of April!" I gasped in shock as I recognised the date.*

#3 Conclusion: "From that day on, I never thought of our minuscule, 3 bedroom apartment as home, but instead the forest with 27 beagles..."

Strengths: Your piece attempts to show character growth and a clear resolution. You provide specific details like "27 beagles" that make the fantasy world feel more real.

Weakness: Rushed conclusion → Your ending jumps too quickly to the final realisation without showing how the character's feelings developed over time. The lesson about "home is where the heart desires to be" needs more development to feel meaningful.

Exemplar: *From that day on, I began to think of the magical forest as my true home, not our small apartment. I had learnt that home could be anywhere your heart felt truly happy.*

■ Overall Comments

Your piece shows creativity in combining dream sequences with magical realism, and you've created an engaging fantasy adventure. However, your writing would benefit from clearer sentence structure and better organisation of ideas. The story moves very quickly from scene to scene without giving readers time to understand what's happening. Additionally, you could strengthen the connection between the character's emotions and the magical events. Try slowing down your storytelling and explaining how each magical moment affects your main character. Also, consider adding more details about why the forest feels like home compared to the apartment.

Score: 38/50

Section 2:

The Last Key

~~Chills rushed down my back~~ [Chills rushed down my back], sending shivers down my spine. ~~Trembling, my hands~~ [My hands trembled], clammy from perspiration, ~~clenched~~ [and clenched] into tight fists, grasping onto my soft wool pants. Flowing from my head to toes, a wave of ~~Deja-Vu~~ [déjà vu] rushed through my body, like a tsunami spreading through a city. Glistening and golden, the keyhole that stood before my eyes created a strange sense of familiarity. "Have I been here before?" I whispered to myself with uncertainty.

I woke up drenched in sweat. My heart pounded as fast as a cheetah. Each ~~part~~ [breath] I took was ~~a~~ [sharp and] shallow~~, sharp, shallow breath~~, lasting no longer than half a second. What had just happened? I leapt out of the smooth, silky sheets of my bed, being

careful not to wake my seven siblings, ~~in~~ [with] two completely different minds. On one side, I wanted to keep investigating, but on the other side, I knew this would just cause trouble to follow me and that no one would believe a ~~tenyear~~ [-year-] old. #1

Bright and luminescent, the huge moon bathed the world in an iridescent light, as scintillating as a sparkling ocean under the bulging ball of light, sending eerie chills up my spine and goosebumps across my skin. Creeping cautiously yet silently, I let my shivering legs lead me to where I had dreamt of. Suddenly, my toe thumped on something hard. A leather~~bound~~ [-bound] book.

~~Harsh and frigid, a fierce wind blew the book open to page 64. "My birthday!" I continued, "the sixth of April!" I gasped in shock. [A harsh, frigid wind blew the book open to page 64. "My birthday!" I exclaimed. "The sixth of April!" I gasped in shock.] Neat, cursive writing in gold appeared on the page~~,~~ [.] ~~home~~ [Home] is where the heart desires to be, whispered the thick book, tossing a key into my free palm. #2~~

Sprinting towards the locked door, I ~~realized~~ [realised] it was the one from my dreams. Floorboards creaked beneath me with every leap I took. Every step caused the wallpaper to peel from the walls and the ceiling to tremble. Each shake threatened for the walls to collapse on me. The tranquil air made me shake with fear, but nothing would stop me.

A blinding light ~~burst~~ [burst] into my eyes, burning my pupils. Towering trees created an arc over my head. Birds sang softly in the distance and beagle puppies howled across the vast, never-ending forest. The crystal~~clear~~ [-clear], cerulean sky brought peace to my mind. The scent of the ocean~~was~~ [,] as tangy as lemons~~,~~ [and] ~~yet~~ as salty as bacon, wafted slowly up my nostrils. This was paradise.

~~From that day on, I never thought of our minuscule, 3-bedroom apartment as home, but instead the forest with 27 beagles. I learnt that there will always be a key to a place that will fill where your heart desires to be. [From that day on, I never thought of our minuscule, three-bedroom apartment as home, but instead thought of the forest with 27 beagles as my true home. I learnt that there will always be a key to the place where your heart desires to be.] #3~~