

Writing Feedback

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

#1 Opening paragraph introducing the mysterious door

Strengths: Your opening immediately creates intrigue with the hidden door in the tree trunk, and you establish the conflict well by mentioning both the promise of abundance and the warnings about danger. **Weakness:** Unclear character motivation → You mention Mia found the map "in a chest under her bed" without explaining how it got there or why she decided to follow it, leaving readers confused about her initial motivation. **Exemplar:** *Deep in the forest, Mia stood before an ancient wooden door hidden within an old tree's trunk, clutching the mysterious map she had discovered in her grandmother's chest just that morning.*

#2 Mia's internal conflict and decision to enter

Strengths: You effectively show Mia's hesitation and internal struggle, making her feel like a real person facing a difficult choice. **Weakness:** Abrupt transition between thoughts → The sentence "But she had come so far. Giving up now wasn't an option" feels disconnected from her previous uncertainty and doesn't show how she resolved her fear. **Exemplar:** *After staring at the door for several minutes, Mia realised that her curiosity was stronger than her fear—she had to know what lay beyond.*

#3 The encounter with the shadow creature

Strengths: You build good tension with the creature's appearance and Mia's frozen response, creating a genuine sense of danger. **Weakness:** Incomplete scene resolution → The creature simply doesn't move as Mia walks through it, but you don't explain why it allowed her to pass or what made her brave enough to try. **Exemplar:** *As Mia approached, the creature seemed to study her courage, then slowly stepped aside as if recognising her determination.*

■ Your piece shows good imagination and creates an interesting fantasy world that draws readers in. However, you could strengthen the story by adding more details about why things happen and how your character makes important decisions. The plot moves quite quickly, which is exciting, but slowing down to explain Mia's thoughts and feelings would help readers understand her better. Additionally, some of your sentences could flow together more smoothly by using connecting words between ideas.

Actionable task: Focus on the paragraph where Mia decides to enter the door and expand it to show her thought process more clearly. Also, work on the ending section to explain how Mia overcame the shadow creature.

43/50

Section 2:

Deep in the forest, Mia stood in front of an ancient wooden door hidden in the trunk of an old tree. No one else had seen it before. She had only found it using a map she had found in a chest under her bed. Some believed that there was a place where water flowed freely and food grew without end. But others said the door should NEVER be opened, as it led to something dangerous.

#1 Glancing around, Mia spotted something ~~reflecting from the sunlight~~ [reflecting in the sunlight] underneath the dirt. She bent down and picked it up. It was a rusty key no bigger than her palm, and the words 'The Last Key' were carved on it. Suddenly, she ~~realised~~ [realised] that the key opened the mysterious door against the tree trunk.

#2 Mia couldn't decide. A part of her pulled her to run back home, yet deep inside her heart, she desperately wanted to find out what was inside. But she had come so far. Giving up now wasn't an option. She slowly went and placed the time-worn key into the lock. The door groaned loudly as it opened, as if ~~having~~ [greeting] an unwanted guest. The world beyond the wooden door was nothing like the forest. Her footsteps broke the silence as she followed a pathway made ~~by~~ [of] strange glowing plants.

Mia walked slowly, unsure of what was going to happen next. Dark figures moved around in the corners of her eyes, as if hiding from her view. ~~Weird~~ [Strange] animal sounds surrounded her with their ~~weird~~ [eerie] howls. She felt like someone was watching her. But she kept going anyway.

Later, she came across a wide river of sparkling water. On the other side of it was a land filled with all kinds of fresh fruits and plants. She had found the place on the map, a peaceful land ~~where it was~~ [that was] filled with sunshine. She smiled as the floor beneath her feet started to shake.

#3 Behind the trees appeared a creature, tall and made of black smoke. It had no eyes, but it could sense her easily. It stood between her and the garden. Mia froze. She wanted to run away, remembering that the dark, lifeless path was the only pathway out. She had to decide whether to face the danger or go back with nothing. She took a deep breath before she stepped forward. Her legs were heavy, her heart beating faster than ever. The creature still didn't move ~~from before~~ [from its position]. Mia ~~gathered herself up~~ [gathered her courage] as she walked through the smoke, holding her breath.

The air grew warmer. The darkness faded. She had made it through. Behind her, the door closed on its own. The forest was gone. Before her ~~was~~ [were] fresh water, fruit, and light. It was real. She could feel it. She had brought hope back with her.