

Writing Feedback

TERM 2 | WEEK 1 WRITING | 07th May | Y5 SCHOL

#1 (DING, DING, DING, DING, DING! I heard my annoying alarm clocked and chucked a pillow at it. The ringing bells throughout the pillow of. DING, DING, DING! I moaned and pulled the blankets over my head. The clock shot some tennis balls at me, which it was programmed to do if I don't get up. Yawning I sat up and turned it off. It was only then when I realized that my shadow was missing.)

Strengths:

- Creative description of the alarm clock with personality (shooting tennis balls)
- Effective surprise element with the missing shadow revelation

Weakness: Choppy sentence structure → Some sentences lack flow and contain grammatical errors, making the narrative feel disjointed. The sentence "The ringing bells throughout the pillow of" is incomplete and disrupts the reading experience.

Exemplar: **(DING, DING, DING, DING, DING! I heard my annoying alarm clock and chucked a pillow at it. The ringing continued muffled through the pillow. DING, DING, DING! I moaned and pulled the blankets over my head. The clock shot some tennis balls at me, which it was programmed to do if I didn't get up. Yawning, I sat up and turned it off. It was only then that I realised my shadow was missing.)**

#2 (Where is it? I look around. The golden rays of the morning sun were streaming into my window. My shadow should be behind me, but it had disappeared. Peering out of the window, I saw a black me running up and down hills. I could have sworn I heard it shout, "I'm FREE!" I pulled on pants and a shirt and sprinted off after my runaway shadow. Unwelcoming thoughts kept on worming their way into my mind. "What would my friends think when they see I have no shadow?" "Will they call me a weirdo?" "What if I never catch my shadow?" "What would my parents think of me, losing my own shadow?" I stopped running, panting hard. I had a stitch and it was hurting a lot.)

Strengths:

- Effective portrayal of the character's anxiety through internal questions
- Visual contrast between the protagonist and the shadow running free

Weakness: Tense inconsistency → The narrative shifts between present tense ("I look around") and past tense ("I saw a black me"), creating confusion for the reader and disrupting the flow of the story.

Exemplar: **(Where was it? I looked around frantically. The golden rays of the morning sun were streaming through my window, casting light everywhere, yet my shadow had vanished. Peering outside, I gasped as I saw a shadowy version of myself running joyfully up and down the hills. I could have sworn I heard it shout, "I'm FREE!" with my own voice. Heart pounding, I pulled on trousers and a shirt before sprinting after my runaway shadow.)**

#3 (Up ahead, I caught a glimpse of a black foot running into a darkening cave. I felt my spirits drop. It was going to be impossible to find a shadow in there. Even so, I tore into the cave after my shadow, and stopped dead. It wasn't a dark, gloomy cave like I had thought. It was an amethyst cave. The purple crystal winked at me from all sides. I had never explored this part of our land. No wonder my parents wanted it so much. We lived on the edge of a merry country, surrounded by hills, and a little further, forest. I walked slowly through the cave, not wanting to disturb anything in such a beautiful cave. I reached a fork. I had lost sight of my shadow. I contemplated if I should head back, forget about the shadow, but I dismissed the thought immediately.)

Strengths:

- Surprising and vivid description of the amethyst cave
- Intriguing hint at a larger world and family history

Weakness: Underdeveloped setting context → The introduction of important worldbuilding details ("No wonder my parents wanted it so much" and "We lived on the edge of a merry country") feels abrupt and disconnected from the main shadow storyline.

Exemplar: **(Up ahead, I caught a glimpse of a black foot disappearing into a darkening cave entrance. My heart sank. How could I possibly find a shadow in darkness? Even so, I plunged into the cave after it—and froze in amazement. Instead of the gloomy space I'd expected, I found myself surrounded by gleaming amethyst crystals that cast a purple glow throughout the cavern. Now I understood why my parents had chosen to settle at the edge of this magical country, despite the strange tales people told about the mysterious hills. They must have known about this hidden treasure all along.)**

Your piece showcases a delightful premise with strong imaginative elements. The concept of a sentient shadow seeking freedom creates an engaging foundation for your story. However, the narrative would benefit from deeper exploration of the shadow's motivation for escaping and the protagonist's emotional journey beyond worrying about others' opinions. The amethyst cave setting introduces intriguing possibilities that could be more closely connected to the shadow's behaviour—perhaps the magical properties of the crystals affect shadows in some way? ■ Also, the ending feels somewhat abrupt after the build-up of the chase. You could expand on what happens after the shadow reattaches—does this experience change their relationship? Additionally, consider maintaining consistent tense throughout your story, as the shifts between present and past tense create confusion for readers. With these adjustments, your already creative story would gain greater depth and coherence.

41/50

Section 2:

(DING, DING, DING, DING, DING! I heard my annoying alarm ~~elocked~~ [clock] and chucked a pillow at it. The ringing bells throughout the pillow ~~of~~ []. DING, DING, DING! I moaned and pulled the blankets over my head. The clock shot some tennis balls at me, which it was programmed to do if I ~~don't~~ [didn't] get up. Yawning I [Yawning, I] sat up and turned it off. It was only ~~then-when~~ [then that] I realized [realised] that my shadow was missing.)

~~Where is it? I look around.~~ [Where was it? I looked around.] The golden rays of the morning sun were streaming ~~into~~ [through] my window. My shadow should be behind me, but it had disappeared. Peering out of the window, I saw a black me running up and down hills. I could have sworn I heard it shout, "I'm FREE!" I pulled on ~~pants~~ [trousers] and a shirt and sprinted off after my runaway shadow. Unwelcoming thoughts kept on worming their way into my mind. "What would my friends think when they see I have no shadow?" "Will they call me a weirdo?" "What if I never catch my shadow?" "What would my parents think of me, losing my own shadow?" I stopped running, panting hard. I had a stitch and it was hurting a lot.

Up ahead, I caught a glimpse of a black foot running into a darkening cave. I felt my spirits drop. It was going to be impossible to find a shadow in there. Even so, I tore into the cave after my shadow, and stopped dead. It wasn't a dark, gloomy cave like I had thought. It was an amethyst cave. The purple crystal [crystals] winked at me from all sides. I had never explored this part of our land. No wonder my parents wanted it so much. We lived on the edge of a merry country, surrounded by hills, and a little further, forest. I walked slowly through the cave, not wanting to disturb anything in such a beautiful cave. I reached a fork. I had lost sight of my shadow. I contemplated if I should head back, forget about the shadow, but I dismissed the thought immediately.

Peering into the left one, I saw a dead end. I wondered if shadows could walk through walls, but then, it would have done so earlier. I started to walk faster as the right path began sloping up and up until the blinding sun blocked my eyes. I peered around. There it was. My shadow, trying to start a fire. It had not seen me. I realized [realised] that I had been so intent on finding the shadow, I had not ~~though~~ [thought] what to do when I finally found it. So I did what came to my mind first. I lunged forward and touched my shadow.

It felt like my finger had been surrounded by ice. ~~Before the~~ [The] shadow turned fainter and attached itself behind me once more. Though I think I saw it giggle as I turned away, and headed home.