

Writing Feedback

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

Section 1:

#1: "Eli was having a very ordinary morning. He had brushed his teeth, ate breakfast, and was now ready to go to school. Suddenly, as he reached the door, he noticed that his usually sturdy shadow was shaking, almost as if it was glitching. It became a whirlpool of black, not obeying the laws of physics."

Strengths: Your opening effectively establishes contrast between mundane routine and the extraordinary event. The vivid description of the shadow "glitching" and becoming a "whirlpool of black" immediately creates intrigue.

Weakness: Tense consistency → Your paragraph shifts between past perfect ("had brushed") and simple past ("ate") when listing parallel actions, creating an inconsistent timeline that slightly disrupts the reading flow.

Exemplar: ***"Eli was having a very ordinary morning. He had brushed his teeth, had eaten breakfast, and was now ready to go to school."***

#2: "When the lunch bell rang, Eli was more than relieved. He bolted out the door and into the playground. Yet again, his shadow had started to act up. But this time... this time something was different. The shadow wasn't following Eli – it had developed a "mind of its own." Then, Eli noticed that the shadow was trying to tell him something. Slowly, it raised a shaky hand, and ran off into the distance. Eli, partly amusement and partly baffled. The shadow had gone outside the school's gates, and was now signalling for Eli to follow."

Strengths: Your pacing with short sentences effectively builds tension. The personification of the shadow as an entity with its own intentions is quite compelling.

Weakness: Sentence structure → The fragment "Eli, partly amusement and partly baffled" lacks a verb, creating a jarring moment in an otherwise engaging passage.

Exemplar: ***"Eli felt partly amused and partly baffled as he watched his shadow's unusual behaviour."***

#3: "Together, the family wept, tears of gratitude, longing, sadness, mourning, love, and all the other feelings words could never describe."

Strengths: Your emotional conclusion encompasses complex feelings beautifully. The list of different emotions creates a powerful impact.

Weakness: Show versus tell balance → You're telling readers about emotions rather than showing them through actions, reactions, or physical sensations, which reduces the emotional impact of this crucial moment.

Exemplar: *"Together, the family huddled close, shoulders trembling as silent tears streaked their dusty faces—each drop carrying gratitude for survival, longing for their missing father, and the fierce love that bound them together even in this darkest hour."*

Your piece showcases impressive creativity with the concept of a sentient shadow that saves its owner. The premise is captivating and you've built genuine tension throughout. However, the transition from the shadow's strange behaviour to it leading Eli to safety feels somewhat abrupt. Consider developing the shadow's agency more gradually with subtle hints about the impending danger earlier in the story. Also, your characterisation of Eli would be stronger with more of his internal thoughts as he experiences this extraordinary event. Additionally, the bombing context feels sudden—perhaps you could plant seeds earlier about unrest or danger in the area. The ending, while emotional, could provide more closure about the father's fate or what might happen next. Varying your sentence structures would also help maintain reader engagement throughout.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Eli was having a very ordinary morning. He had brushed his teeth, ~~ate~~ [had eaten] breakfast, and was now ready to go to school. Suddenly, as he reached the door, he noticed that his usually sturdy shadow was shaking, almost as if it was glitching. It became a whirlpool of black, not obeying the laws of physics. #1

Then, just as suddenly as it had started, the shadow stopped. Eli looked at the ground, perplexed, but he just dismissed it as a figment of his imagination. He was tired, and his mind was likely making up things.

He eventually reached school, and as he sat down at his table, he realised that his shadow was repeating the act again. As it ~~shaked~~ [shook] and swirled, his eyes grew more focused, staring intently at his own shadow. "Eli! Is your test paper on the floor?" his teacher yelled, and Eli nearly fell out of his chair. "But Miss, my shadow..." he protested. "Yes? What's wrong with your shadow? Is it dancing?" his teacher chuckled. Eli bit his lip to stop himself from arguing. She just didn't get it!

When the lunch bell rang, Eli was more than relieved. He bolted out the door and into the playground. Yet again, his shadow had started to act up. But this time... this time something was different. The shadow wasn't following Eli – it had developed a "mind of its own." Then, Eli noticed that the shadow was trying to tell him something. Slowly, it raised a shaky hand, and ran off into the distance. ~~Eli, partly amusement and partly baffled.~~ [Eli was partly amused and partly baffled.] The shadow had gone outside the school's gates, and was now signalling for Eli to follow. #2

Eli put down his lunchbox, checked that there were no teachers, and dashed for the gates with a speed that ~~would've~~ [would have] made a cheetah proud. The shadow produced something that looked partly like a thumbs up, and kept going. Eli followed, panting and dripping ~~sweat~~ [with sweat]. As he ran further away from the school, he realised that his shadow was taking Eli to somewhere remote, somewhere which was off limits, somewhere –

Eli gasped. His shadow had taken him to a bombing underground bunker. He stepped through the iron door, and slammed it shut behind him. The strangely large passageway before him was warmly ~~light~~ [lit] with lamps. He took cautious steps, and found himself in an abandoned kitchen, stacked with crackers, ham, burgers, chips and –

"KABOOM!"

A deafening roar of noise shook the sturdy bunker. Eli gasped, and ran back to the door. He opened what felt like millions of bolts and locks, and peeped outside. It was pure chaos. Families were running to and fro, struggling to escape the bombs and missiles coming from the sky. Then, Eli saw his mother and his little sister running. "Eli!" they called. "Mama!" Eli yelled, ushering them inside the shelter, and then slamming the door

shut. As he did the locks, his mother recounted her story. "Saja saw smoke and planes in the distance, and she warned me," at that, Eli's mother stopped to kiss Saja's cheek.

Eli snatched a look behind him, and saw his shadow. It was waving, and nodding slowly, and then it walked off into the distance. He silently thanked the good fortune that had gifted him the shadow.

"So we ran and ran to find shelter," his mother continued. "Then we found you..." she wrapped her arms around Eli, and smothered him with kisses. "Dad?" he asked. His mother shook her head.

Together, the family wept, tears of gratitude, longing, sadness, mourning, love, and all the other feelings words could never describe. #3