

Writing Feedback

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

#1 (First paragraph and introduction) Strengths: Your opening effectively establishes the ordinary morning routine before introducing the unusual element. Your description of "the sun streaming through his window, the distant hum of traffic outside" creates a vivid sensory experience.

Weakness: Undeveloped setting → While you mention basic elements like a window and traffic, your setting lacks specifics that would ground readers in Elliot's world. Phrases like "the usual morning routine" and "cozy blanket" are generic rather than distinctive. We don't get a clear sense of who Elliot is or what makes his room unique.

Exemplar: *Elliot woke up to his familiar morning routine—golden sunlight streaming through his Star Wars curtains, the distant rumble of school buses outside his third-floor flat, and the warmth of his faded blue blanket.*

#2 (Discovery of the shadow's independence) Strengths: Your personification of the shadow with human-like gestures is imaginative. The detail of the shadow "arms crossed, tapping its foot impatiently" effectively conveys its attitude.

Weakness: Limited character reaction → Elliot's response to his shadow's impossible behaviour seems unnaturally calm. His question "Uh... morning?" and thought "Maybe he was still dreaming?" don't fully capture the shock someone would feel. The phrase "to Elliot's horror" tells us his emotion rather than showing it through physical reactions or thoughts.

Exemplar: *Elliot gasped and nearly fell out of bed. His heart pounded as he stared at his shadow, wondering if he'd completely lost his mind. He pinched himself hard, wincing at the pain. "This can't be happening," he whispered, his voice trembling.*

#3 (Resolution with Sam) Strengths: Your ending brings closure to both story threads—the shadow's mission and Elliot's relationship with Sam. The description of the shadow returning to normal after completing its purpose is satisfying.

Weakness: Rushed reconciliation → Sam's quick forgiveness feels underdeveloped. The exchange between the boys is brief with minimal dialogue. We don't learn what the fight was about or feel the emotional significance of their reconciliation. The phrase "they exchanged a relieved handshake" tells rather than shows their feelings.

Exemplar: *"I've been meaning to say sorry about what happened at the science fair," Elliot said, his voice cracking slightly. "I shouldn't have taken credit for our volcano design." Sam read the note slowly, a smile gradually spreading across his face. "I missed hanging out with you," Sam admitted, extending his hand. As they shook hands, the tension between them melted away like morning frost in sunshine.*

■ Your piece has a creative concept with the shadow having a mind of its own, but could benefit from more details about Elliot's character and his relationship with Sam. You might consider expanding on why the apology matters so much that even Elliot's shadow intervenes. Also, adding more of Elliot's thoughts and feelings throughout would help readers connect with him. Try showing his nervousness when approaching Sam's house through physical sensations like sweaty palms or a dry mouth rather than just stating "heart pounding."

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

The Shadow's Secret

Elliot woke up to the usual morning routine—the sun streaming through his window, the distant hum of traffic outside, and the warmth of his cosy blanket. But as he stretched, something felt... off.

He glanced at the wall, where his shadow was supposed to be mimicking his movements. Instead, it was already standing—arms crossed, tapping its foot impatiently. Elliot blinked. Maybe he was still dreaming?

"Uh... morning?" he tried, cautiously waving.

His shadow sighed and rolled its eyes. Then, to Elliot's horror, it pointed at his desk with urgency. A crumpled note lay there, one he had meant to deliver days ago but never did.

He picked it up and unfolded it. "Apology Letter to Sam." Right—he and Sam had fought over something ridiculous last week, and Elliot never got around to saying sorry.

Just as he finished reading, his shadow stomped its foot and pointed again—this time at the door.

"You want me to—go?" Elliot whispered.

The shadow nodded.

Without another thought, Elliot grabbed his backpack, stuffed the note inside, and sprinted out the door. When he reached Sam's house, he hesitated, ~~heartpounding~~ [heart pounding]. But his shadow, standing on the pavement beside him, gave him an encouraging thumbs-up.

Taking a deep breath, Elliot knocked.

When Sam opened the door, his expression softened. "Hey."

"I—uh—I wanted to say sorry," Elliot blurted, handing over the note.

Sam took it, read it quickly, then smiled. "Thanks, man."

As they exchanged a relieved handshake, Elliot noticed his shadow flicker for a second—then settle back behind him like normal.

It had done its job.