Writing Feedback

TERM 2 - 2025 | WEEK 6 - Writing | Year 5 Scholarship Essentials

Section 1:

#1 "In Willowbrook, a small town where cherry blossoms danced in the gentle spring breeze and every corner of which promised to reveal a hidden secret, ten-year-old Felix Sun was growing up. Felix's eyes sparkled and twinkled with curiosity, like stars in the night sky, and his unruly hair was as fluffy as the soft cotton tufts that floated in the sky."

Strengths: Your introduction creates a magical setting with vivid sensory details. The description of Felix is memorable with specific physical traits that help readers visualise him.

Punctuation consistency \rightarrow Your writing contains several comma splices where independent clauses are joined by commas instead of proper punctuation. This affects the flow and clarity of your sentences. For instance, in "Felix's eyes sparkled and twinkled with curiosity, like stars in the night sky, and his unruly hair was as fluffy as the soft cotton tufts that floated in the sky," you could break this into two sentences or use a semicolon.

Exemplar: Felix's eyes sparkled and twinkled with curiosity like stars in the night sky. His unruly hair was as fluffy as the cotton tufts floating in the summer clouds.

#2 "That lunch break, sitting beneath their favorite fluffy pink hat-covering cherry tree, Felix gathered his friends around. "What if we propose abolishing exams and using project evaluations instead?" he cried."

Strengths: You've created an interesting turning point in the story where the protagonist takes action. The dialogue effectively communicates Felix's bold idea.

Clarity of description \rightarrow The phrase "fluffy pink hat-covering cherry tree" is confusing and difficult to visualise. It's unclear if the tree is shaped like a hat, has pink flowers that look like hats, or something else entirely. This unclear description makes it hard for readers to picture the setting.

Exemplar: That lunch break, sitting beneath their favourite cherry tree with its canopy of fluffy pink blossoms, Felix gathered his friends around. "What if we propose abolishing exams and using project evaluations instead?" he suggested enthusiastically.

#3 "And finally came Presentation Day—the sun shone with a light never before seen as families sat at tables spread with glittering things made dearly by willing hands set to share their wisdom in playfulness rather than pressure!"

Strengths: Your sentence conveys excitement and anticipation for the big event. You emphasise the contrast between creative projects and traditional exams.

Sentence structure \rightarrow This sentence is overly long and complex with too many ideas packed together without proper punctuation. The structure makes it difficult for readers to follow the sequence of events and understand what's happening during Presentation Day.

Exemplar: And finally, Presentation Day arrived. The sun shone brilliantly as families gathered around tables displaying glittering projects. These treasures, lovingly crafted by eager hands, showcased knowledge through playfulness rather than pressure.

■ Your story has a delightful premise with strong characters and a positive message about alternative learning methods. However, the pacing feels rushed, particularly in the middle where Mr. Grumbleton shifts from being "cranky" to supportive without enough development. Consider expanding this section to show how Felix and his friends gradually convince him. Additionally, your paragraphs vary greatly in length, which affects the rhythm of your storytelling. Try balancing shorter paragraphs with longer ones for better flow. The dialogue between characters is natural, but adding more specific details about their projects would help readers connect with their achievements. Also, work on maintaining consistent point of view throughout—you occasionally shift between third-person narration and a more omniscient voice. The ending feels somewhat abrupt; consider adding a brief epilogue showing the long-term effects of Felix's initiative on the school.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

In Willowbrook, a small town where cherry blossoms danced in the gentle spring breeze and every corner of which [that] promised to reveal a hidden secret, ten-year-old Felix Sun was growing up. #1 Felix's eyes sparkled and twinkled with curiosity, like stars in the night sky, and his unruly hair was as fluffy as the soft cotton tufts that floated in the sky. He was a maverick at heart, with a mind full of dreams and ambitions, and familiair [familiar] to everyone in Willowbrook Elementary.

Felix would walk to school in the mornings along narrow streets bordered by mammoth oak trees that held secrets of times long past. Sweet-baked cookies from Mrs. Thompson's bake shop on the street over smelled heavenly in the air, and he'd fantasise about being an explorer or scientist who could dig up secrets hidden far beneath the earth.

But Felix's heart fell on one thing: traditional exams. The thought of sitting for hours at a desk with nothing but paper and a pencil made him feel like being trapped in a box—stuffy and smothering! As he strolled to school on a sunny Tuesday morning, he heard his friends griping about their upcoming math test.

I ["]I wish we were doing something fun instead," Lucy sighed, whose love of painting colored her universe with bright hue [hues].

"Right! Like projects!" cried Theo, who dreamed of designing robots someday but felt strangled by times tables.

Felix's mind whirled like gears grinding. Imagine never having to sit through boring exams again. Imagine [What if] they could show them [teachers] what they'd learned with great projects instead? His heart thudded because ideas began bursting out like spring wildflowers.

#2 That lunch break, sitting beneath their favorite [favourite] fluffy pink hat-covering cherry tree, Felix gathered his friends around. "What if we propose abolishing exams and using project evaluations instead?" he cried.

"What are you saying?" Mia asked, tilting her head to the side.

Felix took a deep breath as he sketched out his plan—a wonderful plan to convince their teachers that projects were not only fun but also taught them more! "Just think of creating artwork on history or creating models to show how plants grow!" He threw out his hands wide as things rushed in his mind.

Their eyes grew big with wonder. "We could write stories about our favourite [favourite] books!" Lucy cried excitedly.

"And I can blueprint my robot prototype!" cried Theo with glee.

And then there showed up [Suddenly] Mr. Grumbleton—the cranky principal whose frown seemed to be etched on his face permanently—walked past them with furrowed brows like two huffy caterpillars on his forehead. "What in the world are you doing?" he snarled suspiciously.

Felix swallowed hard but held his ground; this was significant! "Mr. Grumbleton," he began boldly, "we believe schools must substitute project-based tests in place of old-style exams because they're so much more fun!"

The principal's eyebrow shot up as interest flashed in those stern eyes of his. "And why is that?"

With courage fermenting within him like bubbly lemonade on a sweltering afternoon, Felix began to explain in earnest and enthusiasm:

First, he said firmly as he indicated towards the blossoming cherry tree towering above them, "projects enable us to explore what we are passionate about! When we do something meaningful—we remember it better! Just like I can still envision those massive dinosaurs from our last science fair!"

Mr. Grumbleton crossed his arms grumpily but listened attentively as other students echoed in agreement:

"Whenever I make art out of feelings," Lucy added happily, "I know feelings in so much deeper a manner than any test could tell me."

"And when I build things," Theo added enthusiastically, stiffening robot limbs with jerky gestures—"it teaches me about teamwork!"

Waves of encouragement broke over Felix; maybe this really was going to work!

Weeks turned into days until "Presentation Day," and everyone gave their all to creating fantastic projects such as dioramas showing lively ecosystems complete with itsy-bitsy singing frogs! (Mia's was created with them!) or interactive timelines with the history presented in the voice of puppets (Lucy used socks!). Each friend brought original ideas bursting forth from unhampered imaginations!

#3 And finally came Presentation Day—the sun shone with a light never before seen as families sat at tables spread with glittering things made dearly by willing hands set to share their wisdom in playfulness rather than pressure!

When it was finally Felix's turn at last—his heart raced happily, but then fear slipped back just for a moment until recalling his friends worked so hard together; this wasn't solely about grades now—it was about freely expressing themselves without worry!

Stepping into the spotlight amidst laughter ringing around happily across vivid presentations full of colours prancing merrily before loving eyes—he spoke loudly:

"We believe learning can be enjoyable! By creating things rather than tests—we're allowed to be imaginative & we're masters of what we enjoy doing best!"

After each presentation's conclusion with cheers ringing throughout the courtyard—a hush descended upon all who had waited for Mr. Grumbleton's judgement...

With foreheads furrowed now into faces smiling broader than any exam results ever could—They heard words no one expected:

"I've never seen such enthusiasm nor talent displayed so passionately... Perhaps it's time schools embrace new ways..."

A ripple surged through those gathered as cheers erupted louder than fireworks lighting up night skies—their voices intertwined harmoniously resonating hopes soaring high beyond classroom walls forevermore!

That day was one of change—a flower bloom path ahead where excitement replaced apprehension—and soon whole classrooms embraced project tests spreading joy far beyond Willowbrook Elementary to all children with bigger dreams inspired by imagination sparking generations yet to be.

And so under flowering cherry blossoms bursting with rich stories deeds matured growing old lessons to be eolored [coloured] vivid adventures eoloring [colouring] futures shining brightly—that's how young brains flourished triumphantly evermore illustrating learning truly shines brightest when being

shared together amongst friends boundless laughter paving every step forward hand-in-hand towards infinite possibilities waiting to be discovered on life's breathtaking journey ahead