Writing Feedback

TERM 2 - 2025 | WEEK 7 - Writing | Year 5 Scholarship Essentials

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph introducing Felix and the village setting

Strengths: Your piece establishes a clear fantasy setting with vivid imagery like "shining Blue Lake" and "dark Whispering Woods." You've created an engaging protagonist in Felix with distinctive characteristics - his untidy golden hair and cat-like curiosity.

Weakness: Sentence structure complexity \rightarrow Your sentences are quite long and contain multiple ideas that could be separated for better clarity. For example, "There was once a small village on a hill between the shining Blue Lake and the dark Whispering Woods, where a wide-eyed young boy named Felix Sun lived" packs too much information into one sentence.

Exemplar: There was once a small village nestled on a hill. It sat between the shining Blue Lake and the dark Whispering Woods. In this village lived a wide-eyed young boy named Felix Sun.

#2 - Felix's encounter with Tilly Toadstool in the clearing

Strengths: Your piece introduces an intriguing character in Tilly Toadstool with memorable details like her tiny spectacles and purple scarf. You've created a sense of anticipation with her mysterious announcement about having stories to share.

Weakness: Dialogue integration \rightarrow Your dialogue doesn't flow naturally with the narrative, making conversations feel disconnected from the action. The transition between Tilly's speech and Felix's responses feels abrupt, particularly when she says "I've been waiting for you" without proper context.

Exemplar: "I've been waiting for someone like you," Tilly croaked happily, adjusting her tiny spectacles. "A young explorer ready for adventure. And oh dearie me, do I have stories to share!"

#3 - The trials with Jasper Jackrabbit and Clara Crow

Strengths: Your piece demonstrates Felix's character development through his helpful actions. You've chosen appropriate challenges that show different aspects of kindness - helping Jasper find his way home and rescuing Clara from brambles.

Weakness: Story pacing \rightarrow Your narrative rushes through the trials without giving readers enough detail to understand what actually happens. The phrase "Each trial tugged at one string or another in Felix's heart" tells us about the impact but doesn't show us the actual events.

Exemplar: Felix knelt beside Jasper, who was trembling near a thorny bush. "Don't worry," Felix said gently. "I'll help you find the path home." Together, they followed the stream back towards the village lights.

■ Your piece shows a strong imagination and creates an engaging fantasy world that will appeal to young readers. The central message about character development through helping others is valuable and well-intentioned. However, your writing would benefit from clearer sentence structure that allows readers to follow the story more easily. Additionally, you need to slow down your pacing to let important moments develop fully. Consider breaking up long sentences into shorter, clearer ones that focus on one main idea each. Also, spend more time showing us what happens during the exciting parts rather than summarising them quickly. Your dialogue needs to sound more natural and connect better with the surrounding narrative. Focus on making each character's voice distinct and realistic for their personality.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2:

There was once a small village on a hill between the shining Blue Lake and the dark Whispering Woods [.] where [Here] a wide-eyed young boy named Felix Sun lived. Felix was ten and had hair that was always untidy and flying [flew] in the wind like golden leaves and [. He had] a curiosity that rivalled

that of a cat. Felix loved to learn about every nook and cranny of his village but never ventured too far into the mysterious woods that lay just behind his backyard.

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#1 The villagers used to whisper about the Whispering Woods in hushed tones, with their eyes open [opened] wide in wonder or fear. "They say if you listen elose [closely] enough," old Mrs Haggerty used to say as she sat knitting at her window, "the trees will tell you ancient secrets." But Felix did not fear; [.] he [He] was curious! What could trees possibly know?

On a cold morning, when an adventurous flame had been kindled in him, Felix believed the time had come to discover what lay beneath those green canopies. He loaded his trusty backpack with supplies: a peanut butter sandwich (he loved it [them]!), an applesssantly [an apple—] shinyred [, red,] one for energy, and his notebook upon which he penned [where he wrote] tales of brave knights and gallant dragons.

As he walked across the threshold of leaves at the edge of the forest, light poured down like golden honey through leaves-festooned [leaf-covered] branches. The scent was pine needles and earth [of pine needles and earth], sweet and alive—so magical that it seemed Felix breathed in magic itself!

With every step he made deeper into the woods, murmurs began to stroke [reach] his ears—soft whispers that seemed to come from everywhere at once. "Hello?" Felix hollered [called] hesitantly. Whispering [The whispering] grew and then stopped like [as though] it was amazed to hear him speak.

#2 He wandered on until he arrived in a clearing where a very aged oak tree stood tall and proud—the oldest tree of [in] the whole Whispering Woods! Its trunk was thick and gnarled; [, and] its bark was like old wrinkled skin creased by many years.

"Ahh! A dashing [young] explorer!" bellowed [called] a voice that boomed [echoed] through every corner of the clearing. Felix was surprised but also enchanted, and he turned to gaze until he saw [. He looked around until he spotted] an odd beast [creature] perched upon one of the lower branches—it was Tilly Toadstool! She wore tiny spectacles balanced on her nose and had a purple scarf knotted snugly around her neck.

"I've been waiting for you," she croaked happily. "You're here for adventure—and oh dearie me! Do I have stories for you!"

Felix's heart beat faster than it ever had before as Tilly sprang [moved] closer on her branch. "But first," she continued thoughtfully, "let's see what you're made of."

"What do you mean?" inquired [asked] Felix.

"Wilderness experience is necessary for the development of character among youths," wisely declared Tilly, straightening her spectacles. "I'll illustrate [show you]!"

With that pronouncement hanging in the airlike a bunch of overripe fruit on the verge of toppling from its tree, Tilly threw her tiny hands dramatically—poof! Instantly, they were whisked to a few [several] scenarios unfolding themselves before their eyes!

#3 In one of the scenes against the background of twilight hues splashed across rolling hills covered in wildflowers gently swaying under starlight, they encountered Jasper Jackrabbit who had lost his way back home after pursuing fireflies too far from home.

"It's okay!" shouted [called] Felix without hesitating; [.] with [With] an innate desire to assist Jasper find [, he helped Jasper locate] his family while anxious himself about getting lost as well!

Then Clara Crow—a [they met Clara Crow, a] clever bird trapped in brambles who needed rescuing but was too timid to request helpin ease she was capable on her own!

Each trial tugged at one string or another in Felix's heart: bravery in helping Jasper; [,] tenderness in freeing Clara; [, and] determination in listening carefully to others' worries—all tueked in tight [woven together] in this escapade!

Finallyreturning [, after returning] with Tilly under [to] their ancient oak treeagain after hours of excitement (and a couple of mud-stained pants), Felix breathed in deeply—knowing that something meaningful had altered [changed] inside him.

"Wow... I never knew helping others could be so wonderful," he admitted softlybut strongly [.] now [Now he was] standing slightly taller than he was previouslyhugged by nature filled him up [. The experience had filled him] more than any peanut butter sandwich ever had!

Tilly smiled knowingly—her eyes sparkling brighter than stars themselves twinkled [the stars that twinkled] above themboth now winding down their day together amid dusk settling softly around them:

"Yes indeedmy [,] young friend—that is character blooming right there."

When night fell over Whispering Woods [the Whispering Woods]shrouded in [, with] starry constellations stretched out across darkened [the dark] skiesinviting dreams back again[,] Felix Sun discovered not just courage but compassion woven deep within himfashioned beautifully within forest adventures embarked upon with new friends along hitherto unseen paths today....

And thus came to be hundreds of other ventures into those enchanted woods—their mysteries forever penned [written] on pages tenderly penned in notebooksawaiting tales as yet untold—but most of all teaching young hearts everywhere just how vital these wilder [wilderness] adventures truly are—when it comes to [for] crafting souls destined for greatnessbeyond understanding!