Term 3 - 2025: Week 1 - Writing Homework | Year 4 Scholarship

Section 1

#1 Opening sequence (first three paragraphs) Strengths: Your opening creates immediate tension with vivid sensory details like "sparks rained down" and "emergency siren howled." The action begins straight away, pulling readers into the scene effectively.

Weakness: Rushed pacing → Your opening moves too quickly without giving readers time to understand the setting or characters. Phrases like "RUN!" and "WHAT IS THAT THING?" appear before we know who Ava and Kai are or why they're in this lab. This makes it harder for readers to connect with the characters or understand what's happening.

Exemplar: Before the chaos began, Ava had been working late in the robotics lab, her best friend Kai helping her with the final calculations.

#2 Dialogue and character interaction (middle section with fire extinguisher scene) Strengths: Your dialogue feels natural and shows the characters' personalities. Ava's quick thinking with the fire extinguisher demonstrates her resourcefulness under pressure.

Weakness: Missing character depth \rightarrow Your characters speak and act, but we don't learn much about their thoughts or feelings beyond fear. Lines like "I don't know" and "We need to keep moving" tell us what's happening but not how the characters feel about it or what drives them.

Exemplar: "I don't know," Ava whispered, her hands trembling as she remembered the months she'd spent programming the creature to be gentle.

#3 Ending revelation and setup (final paragraphs) Strengths: Your ending creates intrigue by revealing Ava built the creature and hints at more dangers ahead. The phrase "The hunt had begun" builds suspense effectively.

Weakness: Unclear plot connections → Your story introduces important information (Ava created the creature, there are others) but doesn't explain how these pieces fit together. Readers might feel confused about why Ava built dangerous robots or what "sleep code" means in this context.

Exemplar: "We need to get to the control room. If I can access the main computer, I might be able to shut down the other prototypes before they escape their containment pods."

■ Your piece shows strong action writing skills with exciting chase scenes and good use of sensory details. The fast pace keeps readers engaged, and your dialogue sounds realistic. However, your story would benefit from slowing down in key moments to help readers

understand the characters better. Additionally, you could explain important plot points more clearly so readers aren't left guessing about crucial details. Also, try adding more description about what your characters are thinking and feeling during scary moments. Furthermore, you could improve the flow between action scenes by adding short paragraphs that explain the setting or characters' backgrounds. Your writing shows you understand how to create tension, but focusing more on character development and clearer explanations will make your story even more engaging for readers.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2

CRASH!

The lab's ceiling shattered as sparks rained down. Scarlet lights pulsed across the cracked floor, and the emergency siren howled through the thick, humming air.

#1 "RUN!" Ava yelled, dragging Kai by the wrist as a mechanical arm burst through the debris behind them.

Metal claws clanged against the tile, slicing the corner of Ava's jacket as she ducked into the hallway. The creature—a patchwork of steel plates and flickering wires—roared like a broken jet engine.

Kai didn't dare look back. "WHAT IS THAT THING?" he shouted, panting as they sprinted down the corridor, dodging overturned chairs and fallen computers.

Ava didn't answer. She just ran.

The hallway bent sharply, and the emergency doors at the far end began to slide shut—far too slowly. Ava shoved Kai ahead. "Go! I'll hold it off!"

"No!" Kai screamed. "We go together!"

#2 Behind them, the creature screeched and leapt forward, crashing through the walls like they were made of paper. Alarms blared louder. The air tasted like smoke and battery acid.

Ava turned, grabbed a fallen fire extinguisher, and hurled it at the monster's chest. Boom! It exploded in a cloud of white mist, and for a second—just a second—it froze, whirring confusedly.

"Now!"

Kai dove through the closing doors just as Ava slid after him. The metal slammed shut, cutting the creature off with a final mechanical shriek.

Silence.

The hallway beyond was lit only by flickering red lights and the dim glow of EXIT signs. Ava leaned against the wall, gasping.

Kai stared at her. "What was that?"

"I don't know," Ava whispered, voice hoarse. "It wasn't supposed to wake up. Not yet."

Kai blinked. "Wait... You built it?"

#3 She didn't answer. Instead, she stood, eyes narrowing toward [towards] the end of the corridor. "We need to keep moving. If that thing overrode its sleep code, the others might too."

Kai's face went pale. "There are more?"

A low thud echoed in the distance. Then another.

Boom... boom...

Ava grabbed his hand. "We need to get to the control room. Now."

As they ran deeper into the underground complex, the floor trembled beneath their feet, and somewhere far behind, metal claws began to drag slowly across the walls.

The hunt had begun.