Term 3 - 2025: Week 1 - Writing Homework | Year Selective R&W

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph: "One sublime morning, my class and I went on an excursion to a breathtaking, tropical rainforest. There were towering palm trees, fascinating birds, and sunlight was pouring through every inch of the forest."

Strengths: Your opening creates vivid imagery with descriptive words like "sublime," "breathtaking," and "towering." You establish the setting clearly and draw readers into the scene.

Weakness: Fragmented sentence structure \rightarrow The second sentence lacks proper connection and reads as a list rather than flowing prose. "There were towering palm trees, fascinating birds, and sunlight was pouring through every inch of the forest" mixes different grammatical structures awkwardly.

Exemplar: Towering palm trees stretched towards the sky whilst fascinating birds chirped overhead, and golden sunlight streamed through every gap in the canopy.

#2 - Middle section: "What if I'm stuck in this rainforest forever? WHOOSH. I heard the sound of fresh air coming from the pile of leaves. 'You don't belong here.' The wind whispered in my ear."

Strengths: You create tension effectively through internal questioning and introduce supernatural elements that add mystery to your story.

Weakness: Unclear cause and effect \rightarrow The connection between hearing fresh air and the threatening voice isn't logical. Fresh air typically suggests safety, not danger, making the transition to menacing whispers confusing for readers.

Exemplar: A cold breeze rustled through the leaves, carrying an eerie whisper that chilled me to the bone: "You don't belong here."

#3 - Conclusion: "Even if I was back with my class, there was something off. It almost felt like something followed me. 'I see you.' A voice whispered."

Strengths: You create an unsettling ending that suggests the supernatural experience continues, maintaining reader interest beyond the story's apparent resolution.

Weakness: Underdeveloped resolution \rightarrow The ending feels rushed and doesn't explore the protagonist's emotions or thoughts about what happened. The story jumps quickly from relief to fear without proper development.

Exemplar: Despite being surrounded by my classmates' familiar chatter, an icy dread settled in my stomach. Something had followed me back, and I knew this nightmare wasn't truly over.

■ Your piece demonstrates strong creative potential with engaging supernatural elements and descriptive language that brings the rainforest setting to life. The story structure follows a clear journey from safety to danger and back, which creates good narrative flow. However, your writing would benefit from smoother transitions between ideas and more developed emotional responses from your protagonist. Additionally, some sentences need better connection and flow to help readers follow your story more easily. To strengthen your piece, focus on connecting your ideas more clearly - show how one event leads to the next rather than jumping between scenes. Also, spend more time exploring how your character feels during key moments, as this will help readers connect with the story. Your vocabulary choices are sophisticated, which shows strong language skills that you should continue developing.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2:

The Haunted Rainforest

#1 One sublime morning, my class and I went on an excursion to a breathtaking, tropical rainforest. There were towering palm trees, fascinating birds, and sunlight was pouring through every inch of the forest. [Towering palm trees stretched towards the sky whilst fascinating birds chirped overhead, and golden sunlight streamed through every gap in the canopy.] As I was looking at one of the plants near me, I abruptly noticed a canopy of trees along another path. Glancing quickly at my class, I slowly approached the area, observing the environment around me. CRAACK. An unsettling sound came from one of the trees. Panicking, I quickly sprinted back to where I last saw my class. They were no where to be seen. [They were nowhere to be seen.] "Mrs Walker?" I yelled. "Anyone?" Gasping for breath, I ran back to where the canopy was. Maybe the animals could lead me back to the group. But when I ran back to where the canopy of trees were [was] last seen, there was nothing there but a patch of leaves.

"What?" I thought in my head [to myself]. "The trees couldn't have just disappeared! N-now I have no way to find my class!" My heart skipped a beat. What if I'm stuck in this rainforest forever? WHOOSH. I heard the sound of fresh air coming from the pile of leaves. [A cold breeze rustled through the leaves, carrying an eerie whisper.] "You don't belong here." The wind whispered in my ear. [The voice continued menacingly.] "You are going to die. You will never go home." Something was pulling me into the pile of leaves. I quickly realised [that the

floor beneath me was unstable. I fell deep down...into an abyss. Something was haunting this forest. Something is [was] severely wrong here. Something—or someone was doing [had done] this to me.

#2 "Ughhh," I moaned. "Where...am I?" A pause. [After a moment,] I looked around and saw that I was in a completely different area of the forest. Everything looked enchanted and...was that a crystal? Walking around, I scanned every part of the area, making sure there wasn't anymore [weren't any more] booby-traps or anything. Then I remembered...I was supposed to be looking for my class right now. "MRS WALKER!!!!!" I screamed at the top of my lungs. "LARISSA! VICKY!" Nothing. Just a soft, distant echo. Trying to hold in my tears, I started to look inside the backpack I was carrying. Maybe there was something useful inside. Maybe there was hope. Still nothing. Just my favourite book, a water bottle, and my lunch I was supposed to eat. With my class. "No," I breathed. "This must be a dream. It has to. Im [I'm] in..a sleep paralysis or something." I sighed. Denying the truth was no use. [Denying the truth served no purpose.] "Go back to your class," the crystals twinkled. "Go back to the school bus." I gasped. That was an amazing idea. But before I got to even move, I was knocked into darkness again...

#3 "Not again.." I groaned. At least I was near my school bus. Taking a deep breath, I went into the yellow double decker, hoping desperately that my class was there. Thankfully, they were all on the bus waiting for me. Most of the class were [was] very concerned about me, and they asked me tons of questions about were [where] I was. But Mrs Walker scolded me the entire trip to school. "You could've died! No more wondering [wandering] about for you, young lady. I want an essay on why you shouldn't wander away on excursions written. Due Friday!!" I sighed. Even if I was back with my class, there was something off. It almost felt like something followed me. [Despite being surrounded by my classmates' familiar chatter, an icy dread settled in my stomach. Something had followed me back, and I knew this nightmare wasn't truly over.] "I see you." A voice whispered.