Term 3 - 2025: Week 1 - Writing Homework | Year 5 Scholarship Specialisation

Section 1:

#1 "The first crash of thunder silenced the crowd, immediately stopping every single body in the desolate stadium. The clapping stopped, the cheering stopped, essentially everything stopped, it even felt like time had stopped."

Strengths: Your opening creates immediate tension and sets a dramatic scene. The repetition of "stopped" effectively emphasises the sudden change in atmosphere.

Weakness: Repetitive sentence structure \rightarrow Your sentences follow the same pattern repeatedly, which makes the writing feel choppy and monotonous. The phrase "everything stopped" appears three times in quick succession, and you rely too heavily on simple sentence constructions. This repetition reduces the impact of your dramatic opening.

Exemplar: The first crash of thunder silenced the crowd, freezing every person in the desolate stadium. Clapping ceased, cheering died away, and even time itself seemed suspended.

#2 "What once was a blue, cloudless sky was now a dark, grey angry monster, preparing to pounce. The vivid light flashed before her eyes, like a dragon slowly clawing its way out after millions of years of being trapped."

Strengths: Your use of metaphors creates vivid imagery that helps readers visualise the storm. The comparison between the sky and a monster shows creative thinking.

Weakness: Unclear metaphor connections \rightarrow Your metaphors don't connect logically or smoothly. You shift from describing the sky as an "angry monster" to suddenly talking about a "dragon clawing its way out," but these images don't relate to each other clearly. This confusion makes it harder for readers to follow your description.

Exemplar: What once was a blue, cloudless sky had transformed into a dark, menacing beast preparing to strike. Lightning flickered within its depths like claws ready to tear through the darkness.

#3 "She took a deep breath, the thunder impatient. It read 'The answer always lies within reach, but only if you're willing to take the steps in order to get it,' She grinned. The lightning struck the ground. The great journey had just begun."

Strengths: Your ending provides closure to the mystery about her father and sets up future events. The discovered note creates an emotional connection between past and present.

Weakness: Abrupt transitions between ideas → Your sentences jump from one idea to another without smooth connections. You move from Amelia breathing to describing impatient thunder, then to reading the note, then to grinning, all without clear links between these actions. This makes the ending feel rushed and disconnected.

Exemplar: As she took a deep breath, thunder rumbled impatiently overhead. The note revealed her father's familiar words: 'The answer always lies within reach, but only if you're willing to take the steps to reach it.' Despite the storm's fury, Amelia smiled, knowing her great journey was just beginning.

■ Your piece shows strong creativity in developing an engaging mystery story with supernatural elements. The discovery of her father's watch creates an effective emotional hook that connects Amelia's past trauma with her present situation. However, your writing would benefit from smoother sentence flow and clearer connections between ideas. Many of your sentences feel choppy because they're too short and don't link well together. Additionally, work on making your metaphors more consistent throughout each paragraph. When you describe the storm, stick with one main comparison rather than jumping between different images. Also, focus on varying your sentence lengths - mix short, punchy sentences with longer, more detailed ones to create better rhythm. Your dialogue and internal thoughts need clearer punctuation and formatting to help readers understand when characters are speaking versus thinking.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2:

The [The first crash of thunder silenced the crowd, immediately stopping every single body in the desolate stadium. The elapping stopped, the cheering stopped, essentially everything stopped, it even felt like time had stopped. [Clapping ceased, cheering died away, and everything seemed suspended—even time itself appeared to halt.] #1 Amelia jerked her head up. What once was a blue, cloudless sky was now a dark, grey angry monster, preparing to pounce. The vivid light flashed before her eyes, like a dragon slowly clawing its way out after millions of years of being trapped. [Vivid light flashed before her eyes, like ancient fire breaking free from its prison.] She froze. Something in the sky shifted. Like the rumble before an angry storm. [It was like the rumble that precedes a furious tempest.] Onlookers gasped, immediately putting up their umbrellas or seeking cover. [Onlookers gasped and immediately raised their umbrellas or sought shelter.] The first pitters [patters] of cold rain began to fall. A storm was coming, and it was coming now. Time started to tick, every second priceless. Beyond what was happening behind her, Amelia didn't back down. She stood, rooted to the ground that seemed like an enemy

too: [She remained rooted to the ground, which now felt hostile beneath her feet.] It was a race against time. 'It's not about what comes to you, it's about what steps you take,' Her [her] dad's voice rang in her head. Amelia looked up into the menacing sky, daring to face its wrath, but she stood defiant. She was ready to strike.

The bright, coursing light struck the ground, ripping up the roots of what should stay hidden. Secrets whispered. The crowd shrieked, pushing at [towards] the front entrance. #2 Amelia took a step [, and] something metallic caught her at the corner of her fierce eyes [the corner of her eye]. Her feet began to move, squelching in the wet, cold grass. Dirt flew up as ripples of thunder grabbed the ground. She picked up her pace [, with] Every [every] step getting faster. When she reached it, she realised [realised] it was a watch [—] not just any watch, the [but the] one that her dad always wore. Amelia picked it up. It was a [on a] day like this when [that] her dad mysteriously died in a storm. It was unexplained. She flipped it over, a wave of hope washing over her. She checked the back, opening the cold metallic cap. Amelia was right [—] it was still there [:] the little gap where he stored a note, where he said that she could read it when he passed it on to her. #3 She took a deep breath, the thunder impatient. [As she took a deep breath, thunder rumbled impatiently overhead.] It read [: 'The answer always lies within reach, but only if you're willing to take the steps in order to get it [.'] She grinned. [Despite the storm's fury, she smiled.] The lightning struck the ground. The great journey had just begun.