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Writing Feedback
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TERM 2 - 2025: HOLIDAY | Day 2 - Writing Homework | 10-Day Intensive Writing

Section 1:

#1 Strengths: Your opening introduces an interesting twist on Wild West expectations by featuring a llama instead of a horse. Your character, Jeffrey Bezos, has clear motivation - to prove himself as a cowboy.

Weakness: Character introduction lacks depth → While you've established Jeffrey's age and basic motivation, there's little information about his personality, appearance, or background. When you write "he wanted to prove the town that he was a cowboy," readers don't understand why this matters to Jeffrey or what obstacles he faces beyond his age. "His journey starts today" tells rather than shows his excitement or nervousness

Exemplar: Jeffrey Bezos was no ordinary 15-year-old in Dustbowl Creek. With his father's worn leather hat sliding over his ears and determination gleaming in his eyes, he aimed to earn the silver sheriff's badge that the town only awarded to true cowboys.

#2 Strengths: You create a vivid setting with "brown sand with prickly green cactuses everywhere" and establish clear physical distance (15 kilometres) for the journey. The dialogue between Jeffrey and Miss Miller adds character interaction.

Weakness: Plot development lacks logical progression \rightarrow The revelation that Jeffrey went the opposite direction happens abruptly without explanation of how he made such a significant navigational error. When Jeffrey says "I should be seeing the tower by this time," we don't know what tower he's referring to or its significance. The time passage ("Another 3.75 Kilometres go by") feels mechanical rather than being integrated into the adventure.

Exemplar: Jeffrey squinted at the sun's position, then at his compass, his stomach sinking as he realised the truth. Tina had wandered off-trail hours ago while he'd dozed in the saddle, and now the familiar Twin Peaks that should have been directly ahead were barely visible behind him.

#3 Strengths: Your conflict with the map creates genuine tension in the story. The resolution shows character growth as Jeffrey expresses affection for Tina despite initial frustration.

Weakness: Emotional reactions need development \rightarrow Jeffrey's emotions swing dramatically from extreme despair ("cried in despair, fell to the floor") to immediate excitement ("exclaimed Jeffrey excitedly") without showing the thought process between these states. When Jeffrey says "I really love you Tina," the emotional shift feels sudden rather than earned through shared experience. The line "was about to quit and never would be a great, amazing and famous cowboy" lists attributes without showing why these matter to him.

Exemplar: Jeffrey wiped dusty tears from his cheeks, embarrassed by his outburst. He'd blamed Tina unfairly when the llama had actually saved their mission. Gently stroking her woolly neck, he whispered, "We might make proper trail partners after all, you clever beast."

■ Your Wild West adventure has a creative premise with Jeffrey and his llama partner that readers will find charming. To strengthen your story, focus on developing Jeffrey's character by showing his thoughts and feelings throughout the journey. When he faces challenges like getting lost or losing the map, slow down these moments to let readers experience his emotions. Try adding sensory details about the desert - the heat on his skin, the taste of dust, the sound of Tina's footsteps. Your dialogue has good energy, but could be expanded to reveal more about the characters. Also, consider developing the importance of Jeffrey's mission - what's in the message he's delivering and why does it matter? Adding these details will help readers connect more deeply with Jeffrey's adventure and care about whether he succeeds.

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Section 2:

In the old times, uh hum [ahem] I mean the Wild west [West], you may think that every cowboy and cowgirl rode horses but not this fella. His name was Jeffrey Bezos [.] He was a 15-year-old kiddo who wanted to prove the [to the] town that he was a cowboy, and so to do that he wanted to go out on an adventure to deliver a message across the dangerous desert. As [And] his journey starts [started] today. #1

"Howdy, Miss Miller, you have some animals I can borrow," exclaimed Jeffrey.

"Yes, I do, but all the horses are taken, there is only one llama left so... here you go lad," replied Miss miller [Miller] who had a weed [wheat stalk] in her mouth. Jeffrey had his new partner 'Tina'he [. He] was worried how he is [was] going to get passed [past] the diabolical desert. Well, he set sail on the brown sand with prickly green cactuses everywhere. The other town was 15 kilometres away. He thought it was going to be quick, but he forgot, he was riding on a llama. A quarter in and no sign humanity [of humanity], he was in the middle of nowhere. Another 3.75 Kilometres [kilometres] go by meaning that he is [was] halfway. #2

"Huh? I should be seeing the tower by this time," said Jeffrey questionably [questioningly]. He looked at his map to see what direction he was going to [in]. "HUH?!, HOW I [DID I GO] WENT THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION WHYY!!," Jeffrey shouted. As he stared at the map for the smallest route, the dark sky opened with lots of stars. Has [As] he set up a sleeping area with his llama he started playing music on his harmonica which made him and his llama sleep.

When they woke up, Jeffrey could not find the map. He searched everywhere, like everywhere. Then he found that Tina was chewing something, he saw paper and he snapped. "WHYYY TINA WHYY." He cried in despair, fell to the floor, was about to quit and never would be a great, amazing and famous cowboy. Well, what he didn't know that [was that] the llama did not eat the map but instead he [it] ate the envelope of the message and found the map which was under its jagged hoof. Jeffrey looked in his bag for the message, but the envelope was not there. He looked at the llama and spotted another piece of paper on [under] its jagged hoof. "No Way," exclaimed Jeffrey excitedly. He took the map and were [they were] back on track again. "I really love you Tina," said Jeffrey kindly. #3