Writing Feedback

TERM 2 - 2025 | Day 4 - Writing Homework | Year 5 Reading & Writing

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraphs introducing the sixth sense concept **Strengths:** Your opening effectively establishes the unique world of Brightvale and creates immediate intrigue with the concept of feeling others' emotions. The specific example with George and the baker demonstrates the sixth sense clearly through concrete action.

Weakness: Shallow world-building \rightarrow Your introduction presents the sixth sense concept but lacks depth in explaining how this ability developed or affects daily life beyond basic interactions. The phrase "like a whisper in one's chest" provides some imagery, but you don't explore the complexities of living with such an ability or how society adapted to everyone having this power.

Exemplar: Everyone in Brightvale discovers their sixth sense during childhood, when the overwhelming flood of emotions from family members first crashes into their consciousness, teaching them that privacy of feeling is merely an illusion.

#2 - The paragraph about public places and "calm clips" **Strengths:** You introduce an interesting solution to the problem of emotional overload with the "calm clips" concept. The comparison to "cacophony" shows good vocabulary choice and helps readers understand the overwhelming nature of multiple emotions.

Weakness: Underdeveloped technology concept \rightarrow The "calm clips" appear suddenly without explanation of how they function or why they're necessary. You mention they "try and deflect strong emotions" but don't clarify whether they actually work, who invented them, or how people learned to cope before these devices existed.

Exemplar: The calm clips, small silver devices that vibrate gently against the skin, were invented by Dr. Sarah Chen after she witnessed a young child collapse from emotional overload in the town square, unable to distinguish between his own feelings and the crowd's collective anxiety.

#3 - The concluding paragraphs with George's interaction **Strengths:** Your ending brings the story full circle with George's act of kindness toward the baker. The final line "Sometimes, when you can feel what they feel, kindness speaks louder than words" effectively captures the theme.

Weakness: Rushed resolution \rightarrow The transformation from the baker's grief to her lessened sadness happens too quickly without showing the process. You write "Her grief lessened, just a little" but don't explain how George's smile accomplished this or what specific aspect of his kindness created this change.

Exemplar: George's smile carried with it a gentle warmth that the baker felt wash over her own sadness, not erasing her grief but wrapping around it like a soft blanket, reminding her that she wasn't alone in her sorrow.

■ Your piece presents a fascinating concept that could explore deep themes about empathy, privacy, and human connection. However, you need to develop your ideas more thoroughly to create a richer reading experience. The world of Brightvale feels somewhat surface-level because you don't delve into the complexities of living with such abilities. Additionally, consider expanding on how this society functions differently from ours - do people still lie, how do relationships work, what happens to those who might be born without this sense? Your writing shows good potential, but the ideas need more substance to truly engage readers. Also, you could strengthen your narrative by showing more specific examples of how the sixth sense affects different aspects of life, such as family dynamics, education, or conflict resolution. Furthermore, developing the emotional consequences of constantly feeling others' emotions would add depth to your story.

Overall	Score:	41	/50
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Section 2:

The Sixth Sense

#1 Everyone in the town of Brightvale is born with a gift — a sixth sense. It is not sight, sound, smell, taste, or touch. The sixth sense enables individuals to feel other individuals' feelings, like a whisper in one's chest. It makes them know how someone really feels, even when nothing is said.

#2 George, who was 11 years old, walked into the bakery one morning. He smelled fresh bread and cinnamon buns. He heard soft music playing and felt the warm air on his face. But most of all, he noticed something else — sadness. The baker smiled, but George could feel that her heart was heavy. That was the sixth sense. It told him she was pretending to be okay.

In Brightvale, no one can hide his or her [their] feelings. If someone is scared or upset, others around him or her [them] feel it. It changes how people act. Teachers at school know if a student is feeling worry or pride. On the playground, kids know if someone is feeling left out. People are kinder because they understand each other.

#3 But the sixth sense is not always easy. In public places, like shops or the train station, there are too many emotions all at once. It is like sitting in a room of cacophony — happiness, anger, fear, and excitement all mixed together. People usually wear "calm clips" on their shirts to try and deflect strong emotions when it gets too much.

However, the sixth sense brings people together. George once sensed his best friend's fear before a swimming contest. He didn't say anything — just gave him a thumbs-up. His friend smiled and dived in with confidence.

George looked at the baker as he left the bakery and gave her a gentle smile. Her grief lessened, just a little. She smiled back.

Sometimes, when you can feel what they feel, kindness speaks louder than words.