Writing Feedback

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

## Section 1:

#1 Strengths: Your introduction effectively establishes Amara's character as a young beekeeper and creates immediate sympathy through mentioning her orphaned status. You've included an intriguing element with the buried treasure that serves both practical and mystical purposes.

Weakness: Underdeveloped backstory  $\rightarrow$  Your introduction contains several important elements (Amara's age, profession, parents' death, treasure burial) but rushes through them without allowing readers to connect emotionally. The phrase "her parents died when she was seven years old" is stated matter-of-factly without exploring the emotional impact or how she manages to live alone at such a young age.

Exemplar: Her parents had been master beekeepers in the Blue Mountains, teaching Amara everything they knew before their tragic accident four years ago. Though only eleven now, Amara continued their legacy, finding solace in the gentle hum of her hives as she navigated life without them.

#2 Strengths: You've created an interesting discovery moment with the cold object and the dramatic reaction of the bees forming a protective umbrella around Amara. The revelation that this is the treasure her parents left connects nicely to your introduction.

Weakness: Vague sensory details → The discovery lacks vivid sensory language that would make readers feel present in the moment. Phrases like "as cold as the Arctic wind" and "golden glowing key" are general descriptions that don't fully engage the reader's imagination or explain what makes this object unique beyond its temperature and appearance.

Exemplar: Amara's fingers trembled as they closed around the ice-cold metal, its surface etched with delicate honeycomb patterns that pulsed with a warm golden light. The moment she lifted it from the soil, the air filled with the thunderous beating of thousands of tiny wings as her bees swarmed protectively around her.

#3 Strengths: You've established a clear problem for Amara to solve regarding how to keep the key without disrupting her beekeeping. This creates narrative tension and gives direction to where the story might go next.

Weakness: Abrupt ending  $\rightarrow$  The story concludes too suddenly without exploring potential solutions or Amara's emotional response to this discovery. The final sentence "Confused, Amara now has the challenge..." reads more like a setup for the next chapter rather than a satisfying conclusion, leaving readers without closure or hints about how she might solve this dilemma.

Exemplar: That night, as moonlight filtered through her window, Amara spread her parents' old beekeeping journals across her bed. There had to be some clue about the key's powers and how to control them. She refused to give up the treasure they'd left to protect her, but she also couldn't bear to abandon the beekeeping legacy that connected her to them. Somehow, she would find a way to honour both.

■ Your story introduces a fascinating protagonist in Amara and a magical concept with the key and bee shield. However, the narrative would benefit from deeper exploration of Amara's emotions and daily life as an orphaned child beekeeper. Consider adding details about how she manages to live alone at eleven and what her routine looks like. The magical elements need more development too—explain the mechanics of how the key works, what the evil spirit might be, and why her parents chose bees as protectors. You might also want to expand on the setting of the Blue Mountains to ground readers in a specific place. Try slowing down important moments, like when Amara first discovers the key, to build suspense and allow readers to experience her confusion, excitement or worry. Additionally, consider extending the ending to show Amara taking initial steps toward solving her problem rather than just stating the challenge.

**Score: 40/50** 

## Section 2:

Amara is an eleven-year-old girl, and she is a beekeeper in the Blue Mountains. Sadly, she lived all by herself [entirely on her own] because her parents died when she was seven years old. Her parents were both beekeepers and since young [she was young], they had always encouraged Amara to follow their footsteps [in their footsteps]. #1 On the night of the full moon just after Amara was born, her parents buried a treasure under the snow to ensure that there is always an abundance of food and to keep Amara and the Blue Mountains safe from a mythical evil spirit.

One day, Amara was busy beekeeping and screamed "Ouch!", as she accidentally tripped on an object that was as cold as the Artie [Arctic] wind. Curious, she took her shovel and started digging. #2 Soon, a gold key-looking object revealed itself! As Amara held up the golden glowing key, the busy buzzing bees formed an umbrella with her inside. To her astonishment, everything went back to normal as soon as she let go of the key. Amara later discovered that her pet bees would form a shield around her whenever she touches the key. Little did she know that the key was actually the treasure that her parents had buried to protect her and her environment.

#3 Confused, Amara now has the challenge on how to keep the key with her, without causing the bees to surround her, impacting her favourite beekeeping activities! [Confused, Amara now faced the challenge of how to keep the key with her without causing the bees to surround her, which would impact her favourite beekeeping activities!]