Term 3 - 2025: Week 2 - Writing Homework | Year 4 Scholarship

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph: "As I climbed up the rickety ladder, a spine crawling breeze whipped my face with icy claws. The unstable ladder shook violently when I took my first step into the treehouse."

Strengths: Your opening creates immediate tension and draws readers into the scene. The sensory details like "spine crawling breeze" help readers feel what's happening.

Weakness: Repetitive structure → Your sentences follow the same pattern, making the writing feel choppy. You mention "ladder" twice in close succession, which sounds repetitive. The phrase "spine crawling breeze" needs a hyphen to work properly as a compound adjective.

Exemplar: As I climbed the rickety ladder, an icy breeze whipped my face with sharp claws. When I stepped into the treehouse, the entire structure shook beneath me.

#2 - Middle section: "Dust motes filled the room with a rotting odour as the sharp nails of crusted dead leaves clawed at my ankles. Cobwebs covered every corner of the cramped space clutching onto any type of threats that touched it."

Strengths: Your descriptive language creates a creepy atmosphere. The image of leaves clawing at ankles is creative and engaging.

Weakness: Confused imagery → Your description doesn't make logical sense. Dust motes don't create odours, and the phrase "clutching onto any type of threats" is unclear. The word "threats" doesn't fit the context properly.

Exemplar: The room reeked of decay whilst dried leaves scratched at my ankles. Thick cobwebs stretched across every corner, catching anything that brushed against them.

#3 - Ending: "A small voice thundered for me to leave as the floorboard underneath my feet creaked louder in pain after every step I took towards the exit."

Strengths: Your personification of the floorboard "creaking in pain" adds personality to the setting. The contradiction of a "small voice" that "thundered" creates interesting tension.

Weakness: Contradictory descriptions \rightarrow A voice cannot be both "small" and "thunder" at the same time. This creates confusion rather than atmosphere. The phrase "creaked louder in pain" tries to do too much at once.

Exemplar: A whisper urged me to leave whilst the floorboards ground under my weight with each step towards the exit.

■ Your piece shows strong creative potential and demonstrates your ability to build suspense effectively. The treehouse setting works well as a spooky location, and your descriptions create a clear picture for readers. However, your writing needs more careful attention to sentence flow and logical consistency. Many of your sentences start the same way, which makes the writing sound repetitive. Additionally, you need to ensure your descriptions make sense - dust doesn't create smells, and voices can't be both small and thunderous.

To improve your writing, focus on varying your sentence beginnings and lengths. Also, read your descriptions aloud to check they make logical sense. Your vocabulary shows good range, but make sure each word choice serves your story's purpose. Additionally, work on connecting your ideas more smoothly between sentences. Your ending builds good tension, but the transition from exploring to encountering the figure needs smoother development to help readers follow your story more easily.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Abandoned Treehouse

As I climbed up the rickety ladder, a spine erawling [spine-crawling] breeze whipped my face with icy claws. The unstable ladder shook violently when I took my first step into the treehouse. [When I stepped into the treehouse, the entire structure shook beneath me.] #1 Hollow wooden floorboards echoed threats of collapsing under my feet as I ducked under the low-rise [hanging] ceiling. Dust motes filled the room with a rotting odor [The room reeked of decay] as the sharp nails of crusted dead leaves clawed at my ankles. #2 Cobwebs covered every corner of the eramped space clutching onto any type of threats that touched it. [Cobwebs stretched across every corner of the cramped space, catching anything that brushed against them.] Whispers of the wind echoed secrets that lay unknown for years after this room was abandoned. Dusty curtains whipped my face as the wind howled in the moonlight. A soft white glow illuminated old photographs of warm smiles on the chipped, wooden walls. A family of joy. A family of love. A family of something that leaves you with nothing but a melted heart.

#3 A small voice thundered for me to leave [A whisper urged me to leave] as the floorboard underneath my feet creaked louder in pain after every step I took towards the exit. Then something jabbed my heart. My guts twisted. My breathing quickened. Something was watching

me. I felt it... But who could it be? – Especially at this time, where there's nothing but sleeping homes. I turned around. A dark figure with glowing crimson eyes hovered over my shadow. It crept towards me as I tried to scuttle back to the exit but my arms and legs were as heavy as boulders. I couldn't move. Then, everything went black.