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

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph: "I don't have a watch, so I asked my parents what the date is. They sighed it was Friday. Friday the... 13th?! That's not good... As I walked to school, I pondered the thought of what could happen: zombie milkshakes, lightning hitting us and much much more."

Strengths: Your opening immediately establishes the Friday the 13th setting, which creates anticipation. The casual tone with "I don't have a watch" makes your narrator feel relatable.

Weakness: Unclear narrative logic → The connection between asking for the date and receiving the day of the week doesn't make sense. Additionally, the examples of what could happen ("zombie milkshakes, lightning hitting us") feel disconnected from the supernatural events that actually unfold in your story.

Exemplar: "I don't have a watch, so I asked my parents what day it was. They sighed and said it was Friday the 13th, which immediately filled me with dread about what supernatural events might occur."

#2 - Middle section: "As I entered the school, I noticed something strange: and eerie, deafening silence in the hallway, which was normally packed with laughter and chattering. Maybe it was because there was only half the regular people, but they were normally the brave ones."

Strengths: You effectively build atmosphere with the contrast between normal school sounds and the unsettling silence. The observation about brave students being scared adds intrigue.

Weakness: Sentence structure confusion \rightarrow The colon after "strange" creates a grammatical error, and the phrase "half the regular people" is unclear. The logic about brave students doesn't connect properly to the previous sentence.

Exemplar: "As I entered the school, I noticed something strange and eerie: a deafening silence filled the hallway, which was normally packed with laughter and chattering."

#3 - Climax and resolution: "I saw the principal, Mr Likler, as a ghost. And under him, a giant pit of frightened, pale kids clumped up into balls. At the sight of me, Mr Likler disappeared, revealing a button behind him. I sprinted for it and pressed it."

Strengths: You create a clear visual of the supernatural threat with the ghost principal and trapped students. The action sequence moves quickly.

Weakness: Rushed resolution \rightarrow The solution appears too suddenly without explanation. Readers don't understand why pressing the button fixes everything or what the button actually does.

Exemplar: "Behind where Mr Likler had been floating, I spotted an emergency release button marked 'Exit'. I sprinted towards it and pressed it firmly, hoping it would free the trapped students."

■ Your piece shows creativity in developing a supernatural school setting, and you've successfully maintained the spooky atmosphere throughout. The Friday the 13th premise works well as a foundation for your ghost story. However, your writing would benefit from clearer connections between events and more logical explanations for what happens. Additionally, some of your sentences need better structure to help readers follow your ideas more easily.

Also, consider developing your characters' emotions more deeply - how does your narrator actually feel when seeing classmates disappear? Furthermore, the ending feels too quick and simple for such a dramatic problem. You could expand on why the button exists and what it actually does to make the resolution more satisfying. Additionally, adding more details about the ghost's motives would make your story more engaging. Your dialogue and action sequences show promise, but connecting your ideas more clearly will strengthen your storytelling significantly.

Overall Score: 39/50

Section 2:

#1 I don't have a watch, so I asked my parents what the date is [day it was]. They sighed it [and said it] was Friday. Friday the... 13th?! That's not good... As I walked to school, I pondered the thought of what could happen: zombie milkshakes, lightning hitting us and much much more [supernatural events, ghostly encounters, and other frightening possibilities]. #2 As I entered the school, I noticed something strange: and [and] eerie [:] deafening [a deafening] silence in the hallway, which was normally packed with laughter and chattering. Maybe it was because there was only half the regular people [usual students], but they were normally the brave ones. They were now scared, with pale faces. It was like a horror movie taking place right in front of my eyes: [.] then [Then] I saw it: a ghost's shadow. It took one of the other kids into a wall, and the kid phased through the solid wall like it never existed. I felt the surface: cold, lumpy and definitely solid. Man, what is going on? Kids phasing through walls, deafening silence, brave kids with pale faces and half the people missing. DING DING DING DING! The brass bell rang, but there were no teachers telling the kids to go in [into] the classroom. All the others stood still: [.] π [A] faint rustling was heard among them. A moving book? I read the cover swiftly: HOW TO BECOME A GHOST. Whoa [Wow], I whispered under my breath. Who wants to become a ghost? I followed the book as it entered the storage room. A cold, bitter wind entered my mouth and the smell of petrol was very distinctive. #3 I saw the principal, Mr Likler, as a ghost. And [Beneath] him, a [was a] giant pit of frightened, pale kids clumped up into balls. At the sight of me, Mr Likler disappeared, revealing a button behind him. I sprinted for it and pressed it. The air was warmer. A ladder appeared, leaning on [against] the wall of the pit. The pale faces were filled back with colour. One by one, the kids climbed out of the pit and bolted for their classes. Whew [Phew], that was a weird hour!