Term 3 - 2025: Week 3 - Writing Homework | Year 5 Scholarship Specialisation

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph: "Christine slid her shaky fingers across the letters on the invitation that seemed like it was going to fly. She stared down blankly, pointing her head where all her wrinkled up clothes were stuffed carelessly in her bag."

Strengths: Your opening creates immediate tension through Christine's physical nervousness, and you establish the setting effectively by showing her preparing to leave.

Weakness: Unclear sentence construction \rightarrow The phrase "pointing her head where all her wrinkled up clothes were stuffed carelessly in her bag" is confusing because heads don't point in directions like compass needles. The connection between looking at the invitation and looking at her bag isn't clear to readers.

Exemplar: She stared down blankly at her bag, where all her wrinkled clothes were stuffed carelessly inside.

#2 - Car journey paragraph: "Christine glared at her car as she squeezed in the crowded leather seat surrounding her bags. She counted all the blurry cars that drove past on the narrow road."

Strengths: You show Christine's reluctance through her actions, and the detail about counting cars reveals her nervous state of mind.

Weakness: Imprecise word choice \rightarrow "Glared" suggests anger, but Christine seems nervous rather than angry. Also, "crowded leather seat" doesn't make sense because a seat can't be crowded by itself.

Exemplar: Christine looked anxiously at her car as she squeezed into the leather seat amongst her bags.

#3 - Dinner scene: "Their saliva dripped down from their mouth when dinner was ready. 'Spaghetti bolonez, my number one favourite!' Christine thought as she took one big scoop and layered it on her mouth messily."

Strengths: You capture the girls' excitement about food, and Christine's internal thoughts help readers understand her feelings.

Weakness: Inappropriate imagery → The detail about "saliva dripping" creates an unpleasant picture that doesn't match the happy dinner scene you're trying to create. Also, "layered it on her mouth" sounds awkward.

Exemplar: Their mouths watered when dinner was ready. 'Spaghetti bolognaise, my number one favourite!' Christine thought as she took one big scoop and placed it messily in her mouth.

■ Your piece tells an engaging story about Christine's sleepover experience, and you've captured the nervousness many children feel when staying at a friend's house. Your writing shows good creativity with details like the owl hooting and the parents being kept awake by snoring. However, many sentences need clearer construction to help readers follow your ideas more easily. Additionally, some word choices don't quite fit the situations you're describing, which can confuse readers about what's actually happening. To improve your content, focus on making each sentence express one clear idea. Also, consider adding more details about what Christine is thinking and feeling during key moments, such as when she first enters Selina's house or when she's trying to fall asleep. This will help readers connect more deeply with your character's experience.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 Christine slid her shaky fingers across the letters on the invitation that seemed like it was going to fly. She stared down blankly, pointing her head where all her wrinkled up clothes were stuffed earelessly in her bag. [She stared down blankly at her bag, where all her wrinkled clothes were stuffed carelessly inside.] Christine slouched her spine as she walked down the never ending [never-ending] hallway. Every step she took, her legs wanted to magnify [pull] backwards. She placed her sweaty hand on the door knob, hearing its evil heart beat [heartbeat]. "Stay safe! I'll miss you!" Mum jumped on the floorboards, avoiding the dark melancholy that filled up the room.

#2 She waited for Christine to answer but there was only an eerie silence trapped in the house. Christine glared at her car as she squeezed in the crowded leather seat surrounding her bags. [Christine looked anxiously at her car as she squeezed into the leather seat amongst her bags.] She counted all the blurry cars that drove past on the narrow road. Seen in a [the] distance was a tall building racing higher than the clouds that had the number '28 Empire Drive'. Christing [Christine] dug into her overloaded bag, finding [searching] for her invitation from Selina. "Found it!" She whispered under her breath, "28 Emp-" She paused for a moment like a statue. Each time the car traced [moved] closer to the house, Christine's fingers danced on the leather seat creating a rhythm.

"We're here." Dad opened the car door for me [her] as if I [she] was about to be put on a gold throne. At the front door was Selina smiling on top of her well-manieured [manicured] grass, unable to keep still. Thoughts swirled in Christine's mind, asking questions [wondering] if she should go back home. Selina dragged Christine inside her house, showing off her expensive furniture. "Do you want to watch a movie while we eat dinner on the 'high quality' sofa?" She said so quickly that it sounded like jumbled words. Christine nodded while trying to smile but she couldn't resist shaking a little.

#3 She dawdled to the sofa while Selina zoomed, going faster than the speed of light. Their saliva dripped down from their mouth when dinner was ready. [Their mouths watered when dinner was ready.] "Spaghetti bolonez, my number one favourite!" Christine thought as she took one big seoop and layered it on her mouth messily. ["Spaghetti bolognaise, my number one favourite!" Christine thought as she took one big scoop and placed it messily in her mouth.]

Shown on the clock was that only an hour passed [had passed]. "I think (yawn) we should go to bed." She managed to say in only one breath. They ran to their sleeping bags as their eyes were about to shut. "Good night" Selina spoke with a soft tone but as she turned to her side, Christine already sunk [had already sunk] into dream world [the dream world]. An owl hooted while insects scurried in the background. The girls didn't mind [;] they were snoring tumultuously [so loudly] that the parents were tossing and turning on [in] their beds all night.