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

Section 1:

#1 (Opening paragraph and invitation scene)

Strengths: Your piece establishes a charming setting with Felix as a relatable character, and the invitation scene effectively builds anticipation for the sleepover adventure.

Weakness: Unclear sentence construction \rightarrow Several sentences contain confusing structures that make them difficult to follow. For example, "It was the kind of place where everyone knew everyone else's name, and adventure lurked around the corner" awkwardly combines two unrelated ideas. Similarly, "he sensed something else bubbling inside him—a fluttery voice that tickled his tummy" mixes metaphors confusingly.

Exemplar: "Felix lived in a small town where everyone knew each other's names. Adventure seemed to wait around every corner."

#2 (Preparation and arrival at Mia's house)

Strengths: Your writing creates vivid imagery with details like "pjamas with rocket ships" and "Mr. Bumbles," and you effectively show Felix's excitement through his actions.

Weakness: Run-on sentences → Many sentences try to include too many ideas at once, making them hard to understand. The sentence "He packed his favourite pjamas with rocket ships in them and hugged Mr. Bumbles, his loyal teddy bear who had been through so many adventures with him" contains multiple actions and descriptions that would work better separated.

Exemplar: "He packed his favourite rocket ship pyjamas. Then he hugged Mr. Bumbles, his loyal teddy bear who had shared countless adventures with him."

#3 (The mysterious thump and discovery scene)

Strengths: Your piece builds suspense effectively with the unexpected sound, and you show the children's bravery as they investigate together.

Weakness: Sentence fragments and incomplete thoughts → Several sentences don't form complete thoughts or contain too many ideas jumbled together. "Gulps of bravery (and probably some leftover popcorn kernels), they crept out of their cozy nest towards what lay outside—unknown waiting patiently below stairs steeped in shadowy mystery..." lacks a clear subject and verb relationship.

Exemplar: "Taking gulps of courage, they crept out of their cosy nest. They moved towards the unknown mystery waiting below the stairs."

■ Your piece tells an engaging story about friendship and facing fears, which will connect well with young readers. The characters feel real and likeable, particularly Felix's nervousness about his first sleepover. However, your writing would benefit from clearer sentence structures throughout. Many sentences try to include too many ideas, making them confusing to read. Additionally, you could strengthen your story by showing more of Felix's emotions through his actions rather than just describing them. The ending resolves nicely, but the middle sections need clearer connections between events. Also, some paragraphs contain too many different ideas that would work better separated into shorter paragraphs. Furthermore, you could improve the flow by using simpler transitions between scenes.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2:

There was a tiny town once where tree branches were waving in the breeze, and a boy by the name of Felix lived there. He had soft brown hair that stuck out at silly angles and a mouth that was perpetually full of [a permanently mischievous] mischief. It was the kind of place where everyone knew everyone else's name and [.] adventure [Adventure] lurked around the [every] corner.

#1 One Saturday morning, Felix received an invitation from his best pal, Mia. "Sleepover at my house!" it read in lettering eovered [decorated] in stars and moons. Felix's heart made a little hop—a first-ever sleepover! However, as he looked at the glittery invitation, he sensed something else bubbling inside him—a fluttery voice that tickled his tummy [felt butterflies dancing in his stomach].

The sun was shining bright [brightly] as Felix prepared for the night that awaited him. #2 He packed his favourite pyjamas with rocket ships in them [on them] and hugged Mr. Bumbles, his loyal teddy bear who had been through so many [countless] adventures with him. Fastening up his backpack, he imagined all the things they would be doing games all around, popping the popcorn like firecrackers, and reading under cosy blankets [After fastening his backpack, he imagined all the fun activities ahead: playing games, making popcorn that popped like firecrackers, and reading stories under cosy blankets].

All was magical when Felix returned to the home of Mia later in the evening [Everything felt magical when Felix arrived at Mia's house that evening]. Her living room had transformed into a fairyland of twinkling lights and multi-eoloured [multicoloured] cushions piled high like

mountains to be overcome [waiting to be conquered]. Mia greeted him with a radiant smile that seemed to glow more than all those fairy lights combined [brighter than all the fairy lights].

"Welcome to my kingdom!" she declared dramatically, as [.] she flung [She flung] her arms wide apart.

They had [played] board games until the sound of their laughter echoed off the walls like elouds of laughter. They munched on buttered popcorn sprinkled with rainbow-colored [rainbow-coloured] sprinkles—Mia's secret flavour [recipe]—and giggled at goofy cartoons until their sides hurt from laughing so much.

But as bedtime approached and the darkness wrapped them up like a frayed blanket [around them like a soft blanket], something began to occur in Felix's stomach again—the whispers grew into a cacophony now; shadows did a waltz against the walls; they flickered just at the edge of his vision when he swung his gaze solidly around at them [Felix felt those butterflies return. The whispers in his mind grew louder. Shadows danced against the walls, flickering at the edge of his vision whenever he looked around].

"Are we going to stay up all night?" Mia asked, her face aglow with excitement as she puffed [fluffed] her pillow into shape.

Felix nodded, but he couldn't help but look over toward the window where moonlight streamed onto floorboards [the floorboards] like splashes of silver paintbrushes on eanvas [silver paint across a canvas]. The outside world was another world [seemed like a different place] at night—mysterious and magical and perhaps just a little bit scary too.

As they <u>clutched</u> [built] their <u>blanket stronghold built of</u> [fort from] soft pillows and <u>shining star-speckled</u> [star-covered] sheets, Felix glanced over at Mr. Bumbles beside him—a vigilant sentinel <u>waiting to see what would happen</u> [standing guard].

"Just in case we hear ghostly noises," he spoke softly hesitantly after a few minutes had passed in silence between them [whispered after a moment of silence].

Mia shrugged playfully but then paused with a thoughtful look before speaking softly [shrugged playfully, then paused thoughtfully], "And what if it's just friendly owls or maybe even. fairies?"

That idea set Felix's imagination burning more brightly than a light bulb ever could [blazing like a bright light]! He pictured tiny winged creatures flying about outside their window in sparkling robes made of flower petals—a beautiful idea to be sure [such a wonderful thought]!

#3 Soon thereafter was [Soon there came] a tremendous thump from below—a sound so unanticipated [unexpected] that it sent both children bouncing right up into [up in] their fort!

"What was that?!" Mia yelled [exclaimed] with her eyes wide as she gripped her pillow as if it were an imaginary defense shield against unseen creatures lurking under it or maybe a naughty raceoon looking for snacks [like a shield against unseen creatures]?

"I don't know," Felix replied barely above a whisper; courage battling fear within him now let out a big growl in unison together in harmony—what next?! [, his courage battling with his fear].

With hearts pounding louder than drums for parade day celebration outside, they exchanged resolute [determined] looks of unspoken determination: They had to go exploring!

Gulps of bravery (and probably some leftover popcorn kernels), they erept out of their cosy nest towards what lay outside—unknown waiting patiently below stairs steeped in shadowy mystery... [Taking gulps of courage, they crept out of their cosy nest towards the unknown mystery waiting below the shadowy stairs.]

Hand-in-hand, side by side under flickering hallway lights casting goofy [playful] silhouettes on walls painted dreams [the walls]—it was hardly [wasn't really] frightening!

As they erawled [crept] down the last step, slowly descending one at a time... another thump was heard again—but this time followed by soft giggles!

Curiosity brought them nearer until eventually sneaking around corners revealed not monsters but rather [Curiosity led them closer until they discovered not monsters, but] Mr. Bumbles engaging in an impromptu dance contest organized by [with] none other than Mia's mischievous puppy named Sparky, who'd [. Sparky had] decided tonight was the perfect evening for party trouble [a midnight party]!

Laughter erupted, [and] filled every nook cranny surrounding them dissipating last fears replaced by instead joy overflowing freely unbridled dancing along shadows softly fading into dawn slowly progressing erecpingly infusing warmth anew again [corner, dissolving their last fears and replacing them with pure joy as they danced with the shadows until dawn].

And so there [There,] beneath twinkling fairy lights, woven among mutual bliss—something fresh were they to discover [they discovered something wonderful]: sometimes facing what seems daunting only in the way of sweet surprises waits patiently patiently behind unassuming promising corners turned abruptly full of laughter-filled memories forevermore [frightening leads to sweet surprises waiting patiently behind unexpected corners, creating laughter-filled memories forever].

As morning [the morning] sun filtered through windows, tainting [casting] golden light across sleeping faces tucked up tight against each other on top of those pillows [together on their pillows]—their no longer wildly racing [once-racing] hearts steadied ealm recognizing friendships shine brightest when clasped without fear between friends honored beloved [had

calmed, recognising that friendships shine brightest when shared without fear between beloved friends]...

Since then, [,] whenever night spoke [whispered] its secrets, softly inviting one [and invited them] to explore—they embraced every adventure courageously, daring on [,] hand-in-hand, [.] knowing [They knew] always there is [that] laughter in [would] wait behind every shadow east just waiting patiently around unseen corners but ahead [and around every unseen corner ahead]...