Term 3 - 2025: Week 4 - Writing Homework | Year 5 Scholarship Specialisation

## Section 1

#1 "The sunflower was not one ordinary sunflower it was the most mysterious sunflower in the park, leaning on it's right side drooping down. With only one bright yellow petal the flower remained crooked as still as a statue."

**Strengths:** Your opening creates immediate intrigue by introducing the mysterious sunflower. The visual description of the drooping, crooked flower helps readers picture the scene clearly.

Weakness: Run-on sentence structure → The first sentence lacks proper punctuation and runs together two complete thoughts. "The sunflower was not one ordinary sunflower it was the most mysterious sunflower" combines two ideas without a full stop or conjunction, making it difficult to follow.

Exemplar: The sunflower was not ordinary. It was the most mysterious sunflower in the park, leaning to its right side and drooping down.

#2 "Sophie got a tub and put the sunflower in cautiously into the tub. While Sara was walking back to her house Sophie was galloping then twirling back."

**Strengths:** Your use of action verbs like "galloping" and "twirling" shows Sophie's excitement effectively. The contrast between the two girls' different reactions adds interest to your story.

Weakness: Awkward phrasing and missing punctuation → The phrase "put the sunflower in cautiously into the tub" repeats "into the tub" unnecessarily. The second sentence needs a comma to separate the two actions happening simultaneously.

Exemplar: Sophie got a tub and cautiously placed the sunflower inside. While Sara walked back to her house, Sophie galloped and twirled with joy.

#3 "She went online, rapidly looking for information about looking after a Sunflower. It said to feed it water twice a day to make it look like the most perfect sunflower ever! Sophie didn't want Sunny The sunflower to look perfect so she fed it once a day."

**Strengths:** Your character development shows Sophie's unique personality through her decision to keep the flower imperfect. The research element adds realism to the story.

**Weakness:** Unclear pronoun reference and capitalisation errors  $\rightarrow$  "It said" doesn't clearly indicate what source provided the information. Additionally, "The sunflower" shouldn't have "The" capitalised mid-sentence.

Exemplar: She went online, rapidly searching for information about caring for sunflowers. The website said to water it twice daily to make it look perfect, but Sophie didn't want Sunny the sunflower to be perfect, so she watered it once a day.

■ Your piece tells an engaging story about Sophie's connection with an unusual sunflower, and your creativity shines through the character's decision to embrace imperfection. However, your writing would benefit from shorter, clearer sentences that help readers follow your ideas more easily. Additionally, focus on improving your punctuation, particularly using full stops to separate complete thoughts and commas to join related ideas. Your dialogue and character development are strong points that make the story interesting. Also, work on making your pronoun references clearer so readers always know what "it" or "she" refers to. Furthermore, pay attention to apostrophe use—"it's" means "it is" whilst "its" shows ownership. Your descriptive language creates vivid pictures, but some sentences become confusing when too many ideas are packed together. Try breaking longer sentences into shorter ones to improve clarity.

Overall Score: 40/50

## Section 2

## The Mysterious Sunflower

#1 The sunflower was not one ordinary sunflower it was [The sunflower was not ordinary. It was] the most mysterious sunflower in the park, leaning on it's [on its] right side drooping [and drooping] down. With only one bright yellow petal [,] the flower remained crooked as still as a statue.

Sophie and Sara walked slowly in the park [.] they [They] were walking as slow as a snail [,] looking at the beautiful group of Roses, Tulips [roses, tulips] and sunflowers until they saw the mysterious sunflower. Sara thought it was ugly [,] but Sophie thought it was a wonderful piece of art. Sophie remembered the rule of the park [:] Take [take] one flower that you love home! Right when [When] Sophie remembered that [this,] she was twirling [twirled] and knew which flower she wants [wanted] to bring home.

#2 Sophie got a tub and put the sunflower in cautiously into the tub [cautiously placed the sunflower inside]. While Sara was walking back to her house Sophie was galloping then twirling back [While Sara walked back to her house, Sophie galloped and twirled with joy]. They saw the Lorikeets [lorikeets] singing and saw bees collecting sweet pollen.

"Bye [,] Sara!" Sophie yelled.

Sophie then quickly ran back to her house [,] putting her unique sunflower into her favourite vase which was in her room. She zoomed as quickly as a cheetah past her parents without saying a word. Her favourite vase was blue with pictures of *Eillies ,Sunflowers* [lillies and sunflowers,] which she thought would be perfect for her new pet sunflower.

"I'm going to name you Sunny the Sunflower," she said<del>as she was speaking to herself</del> [to herself].

#3 She went online, rapidly looking for information about looking after a Sunflower [caring for sunflowers]. It [The website] said to feed it [water it] water twice a day to make it look like the most perfect sunflower ever! Sophie didn't want Sunny The [the] sunflower to look perfect [,] so she feed [watered] it once a day. Sophie walked outside while the cold winter breeze kissed the [her] cheeks. Sophie went to her garage to look for something that se [she] could decorate [use to decorate] Sunny with [—] maybe a bow. At night [,] Sophie Put [put] on Sunny's small beanie that Sophie made for her [had made] by knitting. Sophie felt the Mysterious sunflowers [that Sunny's] crunchy leaves gave Sophie a Soft [gave her a soft] high five.