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

Section 1:

#1 "As Eric stepped into the lush green patch of grass, he spotted a tiny bud popping out of the ground like popcorn. Soon, the bud unenveloped, and a bright sunlit yellow began to sprout."

Strengths: Your opening creates a clear visual scene with Eric discovering something special. The simile comparing the bud to popcorn helps readers picture the sudden appearance.

Weakness: Unclear word choice → The word "unenveloped" doesn't make sense in this context, as buds don't have envelopes to remove. Additionally, colours cannot sprout - only plants can sprout. These word choices confuse the meaning and make it hard for readers to follow what's happening.

Exemplar: "Soon, the bud opened, and bright yellow petals began to unfurl."

#2 "The yellow turned the faces of school bullies to happy students who loved math. It transformed someone who just got fired from a high paying job into a brand new person with flashes of hope in their hearts."

Strengths: Your writing shows the sunflower's positive impact on different people in the community. You include specific examples like bullies and unemployed people to make the effects feel real.

Weakness: Vague connections → You don't explain how or why the sunflower changes people's behaviour. The connection between seeing a yellow flower and bullies suddenly loving maths isn't clear to readers. Without explaining the steps between cause and effect, your story feels incomplete.

Exemplar: "The bright sunflower reminded the bullies of happy summer days, which helped them feel calmer and kinder to other students."

#3 "Time passed, just like earlier, but a hundred times more painful. The once joyful faces were mixed with sorrow and devastation. Devastation. Time slowed down as it continued."

Strengths: Your writing effectively shows the contrast between the happy and sad periods in the community. The repetition of "devastation" emphasises how badly people feel.

Weakness: Choppy sentence flow \rightarrow Your sentences don't connect smoothly to each other. Phrases like "just like earlier" and "Time slowed down as it continued" feel disconnected from the main ideas. This makes your writing feel bumpy rather than flowing naturally from one thought to the next.

Exemplar: "Time crawled by painfully, and the community's once joyful faces now showed deep sorrow and devastation."

■ Your piece tells an interesting story about how nature can affect people's feelings and bring communities together or apart. You've chosen a creative concept with the sunflower representing hope and its death representing despair. However, your writing needs stronger connections between ideas to help readers understand how events lead to each other. The story jumps quickly between scenes without explaining the steps in between. Additionally, you could add more specific details about what Eric does and thinks during these important moments. Your writing also needs smoother transitions between sentences so ideas flow better from one to the next. Also, some sentences are quite long and could be broken into shorter, clearer parts. Furthermore, you could strengthen your story by showing more about Eric's character and his relationship with the sunflower patch over time.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 As Eric stepped into the lush green patch of grass, he spotted a tiny bud popping out of the ground like popcorn. Soon, the bud unenveloped [opened], and a bright sunlit yellow began to sprout [bright yellow petals began to unfurl]. Out came an amazing sunflower, and the moment it showed its face to the world, Eric's face and mind flooded deeply with happiness. Soon, buds began to sprout on the sides, causing more eruption of joy in the patch of grass, and the newfound sunflower patch. #2 The yellow turned the faces of school bullies to happy students who loved math [maths]. It transformed someone who just got fired from a high paying job into a brand new person with flashes of hope in their hearts. This sunflower helped many people to brighten their attitude, brightening the community in response. As the years went on, and the decades grew longer, the communities [community's] worst nightmare came true. As Eric walked into the patch of green grass at 6 a.m. on a Saturday, a new usual routine to make sure his next week went good [well], he spotted something - a dark patch of wilted black filled with weeds, horrendous enough to cause a storm. A storm of anger and negative feelings in the community. The fired people form [from] jobs looked glum again, and the dash of hope here and there flickered and disappeared. The community lost it – it felt as if ghosts were about to scare you around every corner. Same feeling when the flower was there - just hopeful [The same intense feeling existed when the flower was there, but then it was hopeful]. But that's gone now. The engagement in activities, voting for sustainable practices, everything. Gone. Just like that. Like the wind was some devil created to take away hope. Life went out like a wisp. It was hell. Hell. #3 Time passed, just like earlier, but a hundred times more painful. The once joyful faces were mixed with sorrow and devastation. Devastation. Time slowed down as it continued [Each day seemed to drag endlessly]. Soon, it was barely moving. But the black spots started to disappear. and guess what? [And remarkably,] Decades of life and faith, all influenced by one brave sunflower [decades of renewed life and faith followed, all influenced by one brave sunflower].