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

Section 1

#1 "I blinked and opened my jaw to the cold pavement. Before I blinked, the playground was empty. After, the it was packed with children of all ages, chattering and laughing noisily."

Strengths: Your opening creates immediate intrigue with the contrast between empty and full playground. You effectively use sensory details like "cold pavement" to help readers picture the scene.

Weakness: Confusing sequence of events → The phrase "opened my jaw to the cold pavement" doesn't make clear sense, and readers cannot understand what actually happened to you. The timeline jumps around without explaining how the playground filled so quickly.

Exemplar: After the lunch bell rang, I found myself on the cold pavement, watching as the empty playground suddenly filled with chattering children.

#2 "A strange, mechanical buzzing created a deafening silence in the normally loud playground—it was rare for there to be complete silence."

Strengths: You attempt to create atmosphere with the mechanical buzzing sound. The contradiction between "deafening" and "silence" shows creative thinking.

Weakness: Contradictory description → Saying something creates "deafening silence" confuses readers because deafening means very loud, but silence means no sound. This makes your writing unclear and hard to follow.

Exemplar: A strange, mechanical buzzing filled the normally loud playground, creating an unusual quiet as everyone stopped to listen.

#3 "I was shocked how he got the first place, but looking at how many kids were peeping out of the classroom windows, I guess the 2000 parents voted for him."

Strengths: You show your character's surprise and attempt to provide reasoning. You include specific details like "2000 parents" to support your explanation.

Weakness: Unclear connection between ideas → Your writing doesn't explain why kids looking out windows proves parents voted for the headmaster. This leaves readers confused about your reasoning.

Exemplar: I was surprised he won first place, but seeing how excited all the students were, I could understand why so many parents might have voted for him.

■ Your piece tells an interesting story about an unexpected drone delivery that turns out to be harmless. You include good details like the golden award and Mark's curiosity that help bring the scene to life. However, your writing would benefit from clearer explanations of what happens and why. Many sentences contain confusing phrases that make it hard for readers to follow your story. Additionally, you could strengthen your writing by better connecting your ideas - for example, explaining why the headmaster's reaction was so strong or how you knew about the parent voting. Also, some parts jump between events too quickly without proper transitions. Furthermore, your ending feels rushed and could include more details about everyone's reactions to discovering the harmless surprise. Consider expanding on the emotions and thoughts of different characters to make your story more engaging and complete.

Score: 40/50

Section 2

DING DING DING DING! The noisy lunch bell rang. I blinked and opened my jaw to [fell face-first onto] the cold pavement. Before I blinked, the playground was empty. After, the it [it] was packed with children of all ages, chattering and laughing noisily. A strange, mechanical buzzing created a deafening silence in the normally loud playground—it was rare for there to be complete silence: [A strange, mechanical buzzing filled the normally loud playground, creating an unusual quiet that was rare for our school.] #1 Out of the dark, grey cloud, a sleek drone descended, and underneath it—a ribboned parcel. A few kids stepped closer, ignoring the teachers on duty's warnings, while the rest stepped away, with some running back to the classroom. One of the teachers called the headmaster, who seemed to respond immediately, running from the other side of the playground. #2 A kid named Mark, enchanted by the sudden surprise, opened the parcel without a second's hesitation. The headmaster, now 100 metres away, called to him "DON'T TOUCH IT!!!" but it was too late. In reality, what was inside wasn't a deadly surprise, just an award. The headmaster told us that he had recently been mailed [informed by mail] that he was the "best voted principal" and he was being delivered a pure-gold award by drone. #3 I was shocked how he got the first place, but looking at how many kids were peeping out of the classroom windows, I guess the 2000 parents voted for him. [I was surprised he had won first place, but seeing how excited all the students were as they peered out of the classroom windows, I could understand why so many parents might have voted for him.] But sadly, it had a few minor scratches on it. Mark apologised, but the headmaster said it was okay.]