Term 3 - 2025: Week 4 - Writing Homework | Year 5 Selective Reading & Writing

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph introducing the scenario

Strengths: Your opening creates a clear situation with the raffle-won sandwich and establishes the moral conflict effectively. The physical description of the homeless man with "thin roof" and "damp clothes" helps readers visualise the scene.

Weakness: Unclear narrative flow \rightarrow The sequence of events becomes confusing when you mention moving towards a restaurant but then describe encountering the homeless man. The phrase "I noticed a man sitting alone, shivering under the thin roof" doesn't clearly establish where this encounter happens in relation to your journey to the restaurant.

Exemplar: I walked along the streets towards a warm restaurant where I planned to enjoy my delicious sandwich that I had won in a raffle draw. Outside the restaurant entrance, I noticed a man sitting alone, shivering under a thin awning.

#2 - The sharing moment and restaurant scene

Strengths: Your description of splitting the sandwich with "seemingly deafening crunch" creates a vivid sensory moment. The contrast between your hunger after not eating for two days and your decision to share shows character development.

Weakness: Inconsistent characterisation → Your narrator claims to be poor and having "barely had any money left" yet decides to order additional food. The phrase "I decided to order a quick cheap meal" contradicts the earlier emphasis on poverty and the significance of the won sandwich.

Exemplar: Since I had invited someone to share my meal, I reluctantly used my last few dollars to order a small side dish, knowing this would mean going without food tomorrow.

#3 - The emotional conclusion

Strengths: Your ending captures the emotional satisfaction of helping someone despite personal sacrifice. The phrase about experiencing "the greatest joy I had experienced for 2 years" effectively conveys the narrator's emotional state.

Weakness: Vague emotional description → The sentence "A joyful tension built up inside of me, it transferred from my head to my heart" lacks specific detail about what this feeling actually means. The description remains too general to help readers understand the precise nature of this emotion.

Exemplar: Relief and pride washed over me as I realised that sharing my meal had given me something far more valuable than food—the knowledge that I could still choose kindness despite my own struggles.

■ Your piece demonstrates a genuine understanding of moral conflict and personal sacrifice. The central theme of helping others despite facing hardship yourself resonates strongly and shows emotional maturity. However, your writing would benefit from clearer structure and more specific details. The sequence of events needs better organisation so readers can follow your journey more easily. Additionally, work on making your character's circumstances more consistent throughout the story. When you describe emotions, try to be more specific about what you're feeling rather than using general phrases. Your dialogue feels natural, but you could expand it to show more interaction between characters. Also consider adding more sensory details about the food, the restaurant atmosphere, and the physical sensations of hunger to help readers connect with your experience. Focus on showing rather than telling—instead of saying you felt joy, describe the specific actions or thoughts that demonstrated this feeling.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 I moved along the streets towards a warm restaurant I could sit at to eat [where I could sit and eat] my delicious sandwich I won in a raffle draw []. I noticed [There, I noticed] a man sitting alone, shivering under the [a] thin roof [awning]. His clothes were damp, and his eyes followed every passerby without a word. For a moment, I hesitated. My stomach growled, reminding me that I hadn't eaten in [for] 2 days. I thought, "I really need this sandwich"but outside I still heard myself say [, but I heard myself saying aloud,] "Do you want to share this sandwich with me?" The homeless man's face lit up with excitement as if he had won the lottery. He nodded weakly. My heart pounded as it wasn't what I had wanted to say [this wasn't what I had planned to do].

#2 I wasn't planning on ordering any food, but since I had a homeless guest, I decided to order a quick cheap meal[] because I barely had any money left after I lost [had lost] a whole 50 dollars at [on] the lottery. The homeless man ate slowly as if he just ate [had just eaten] a huge filling meal. When we finished the small dish that the restaurant servedit as [, it was] time to move onto my sandwich.

#3 Both the homeless man and I eyed the sandwich like it was the last one on earth. After a few more seconds of awkward silence, I quietly grabbed the sandwich by the edge, hands sweating, [. With sweating hands,] I split it in half with a seemingly deafening crunch and gave one to him and kept one for myself [half to him, keeping the other for myself]. The homeless man finally said something which seemed like the whole world [everything] to me. I had helped a homeless poor [poor, homeless] man... with me being poor myself. A joyful tension built up inside of me, it transferred from my head to my heart [Joyful tension built up inside me, transferring from my head

to my heart]. It was the greatest joy I had experienced for [in] 2 years. The money I spent for [on] the food was definitely worth the joy.