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

Section 1:

#1 (Opening recognition and dialogue initiation) Strengths: Your opening creates immediate dramatic tension through Ivan's physical reluctance - "malfunctioning to lift his head up" - which effectively conveys his emotional resistance to the encounter. The sensory detail of "Heels clanking, getting louder every second" builds suspense whilst establishing the mother's approach with concrete auditory imagery.

Weakness: Sentence construction clarity → Your opening sentences contain structural confusion that impedes comprehension. The phrase "he forces to turn his head around, malfunctioning to lift his head up" demonstrates grammatical inconsistency with mixed verb forms and unclear mechanical metaphors that don't enhance the emotional content effectively.

Exemplar: Ivan forced himself to turn his head, struggling to lift his gaze as he recognised the familiar face amongst the crowd.

#2 (Confrontational dialogue and emotional revelation) Strengths: Your dialogue captures authentic anger and hurt through Ivan's accusatory questioning, particularly "How am I able to trust you after the incident 7 years ago?" The mother's defensive responses demonstrate realistic psychological patterns of justification when confronted with past actions that caused harm.

Weakness: Dialogue punctuation and formatting → Your conversation lacks proper punctuation conventions, with missing quotation marks and inconsistent paragraph breaks between speakers. The phrase "Like?" silence echoed in what felt like a vapid, endless room of misery" requires proper dialogue formatting to distinguish between spoken words and narrative description.

Exemplar: "Like what?" Ivan demanded. Silence echoed through what felt like a vapid, endless room of misery.

#3 (Emotional climax and physical reconciliation) **Strengths:** Your conclusion effectively demonstrates the mother's remorse through specific physical imagery - "her sleeves drowned in tears as her shoulders sagged, carrying more weight than just Ivan." This metaphorical language successfully conveys both literal and emotional burden whilst maintaining thematic consistency throughout the piece.

Weakness: Narrative voice inconsistency → The final paragraph shifts abruptly from dialogue-driven interaction to descriptive narration without smooth transition. The phrase "carrying more weight than just Ivan" creates momentary confusion about literal versus metaphorical meaning that could benefit from clearer contextual grounding.

Exemplar: Her arms surrounded him as tears soaked her sleeves, her shoulders sagging beneath the emotional weight of years of regret and separation.

■ Your piece demonstrates sophisticated exploration of complex family trauma, particularly examining how economic desperation can force impossible parental choices that create lasting psychological damage. The confrontational dialogue effectively reveals character backstories whilst maintaining emotional authenticity throughout their painful exchange. Your thematic consistency around abandonment, trust, and forgiveness shows mature understanding of family relationship dynamics. The urban setting provides appropriate atmospheric backdrop for this difficult reunion scenario. However, your technical execution requires considerable refinement in grammatical accuracy and dialogue formatting. Focus particularly on consistent verb tense usage and proper sentence construction to enhance readability without sacrificing emotional impact. Your vocabulary demonstrates sophisticated range, though some metaphorical expressions need clearer grounding to maintain narrative coherence. The emotional pacing builds effectively from recognition through confrontation to tentative reconciliation, though transitions between emotional states could benefit from more detailed psychological development. Consider expanding Ivan's internal emotional journey to provide greater insight into his psychological state during this confrontation, which would strengthen reader connection to his character experience.

Score: 38/50

Section 2:

As the train door slid open, a soft voice comes [came] from behind. "Ivan?" he forces [He forced himself] to turn his head around, malfunctioning to lift his head up [struggling to lift his gaze]. Out of many diverse faces, one familiar one stood out. Heels clanking [clicked], getting louder every second.

"Mum..." Ivan said with uncertainty.

Her hands spread free [wide], yet he stepped back, avoiding her. "I thought you had lied again..." he muttered. "How am I able to [can I] trust you after the incident 7-years [seven years] ago?"

Her smile faded. "Stop thinking about the dark side [—] there are plenty of other good things to talk about."

"Like ? [what?"] silence [Silence] echoed in what felt like a vapid, endless room of misery. "Theres [There's] only a dark side [—] sacrificing your own child so you could go to a wealthy family?" shadows [Shadows] crawled through [across] his face. "There is no explanation."

"You thought it was for me? I only did that so I could come back to you [—] in somewhere other than the filthy streets. Don't you remember how much I cared for you? Giving you every piece of food I could get?"

"And don't you remember how as a child, I had to sit on the street, starving until the foster home people found me? Why didn't you negotiate with the family to take me with you? You didn't even try to find a solution."

"I [—] Don't [don't] forgive myself either... Leaving you made me clench my chest every night." Her arms surrounded him [as] her sleeves drowned [were soaked] in tears [and] as her shoulders sagged, carrying more weight than just Ivan [his physical presence].