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

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph: "I stepped onto the platform, heart fluttering, a bluebird soaring in the sky..."

Strengths: Your opening creates a vivid picture with lovely imagery like "sapphire sky" and "cotton candy clouds." You also show the character's emotions well through "heart fluttering" and the feeling that everything seems different.

Weakness: Unclear connection between ideas → The comparison between your heart and the bluebird doesn't connect clearly. The sentence jumps from your feelings to describing the sky without showing how they relate to each other.

Exemplar: My heart fluttered with excitement as I stepped onto the platform, feeling as free as a bluebird soaring through the sapphire sky.

#2 - Meeting the father: "I surveyed the crowd for any signs of my father... 'You've... changed,' I stammered."

Strengths: You capture the awkward reunion moment well with realistic dialogue. The physical reaction of flinching shows nervousness effectively.

Weakness: Missing emotional depth \rightarrow You tell us the character is looking for their father but don't explain why they've been apart or what emotions they're feeling during this important moment. The scene lacks the deeper feelings that would make readers care more.

Exemplar: As I searched the crowd, my stomach twisted with nerves - would he still look the same after three long years apart?

#3 - Apartment memories: "As we neared our old home, a veil of silence fell over us... memories flooded my vision, a wormhole to the past."

Strengths: You build atmosphere well with the silence between characters. The nutella memory is a nice specific detail that feels real and personal.

Weakness: Confusing sentence structure → The phrase "memories flooded my vision, a wormhole to the past; my youth" is hard to follow because it has too many ideas squashed together without clear connections.

Exemplar: Memories suddenly flooded back - a wormhole that transported me to my childhood in this very apartment.

■ Your piece tells an touching story about reconnecting with family, and you've chosen meaningful moments to focus on. The reunion scene feels real, and small details like the nutella treats help readers connect with the characters. However, your writing would be stronger if you explained more about why the separation happened and what both characters are thinking during these important moments. Additionally, some of your sentences try to include too many ideas at once, which makes them hard to follow. Try breaking longer sentences into shorter, clearer ones. Also, think about adding more dialogue between the father and child to show their relationship better. Your descriptions of places are good, but focus more on the characters' feelings to help readers understand why this reunion matters so much.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

Reunited

#1 I stepped onto the platform, heart fluttering, a bluebird soaring in the sky, enjoying its liberty in the sapphire sky and the cotton candy clouds [like a bluebird soaring through the sapphire sky dotted with cotton candy clouds]. I had been in [to] this station a million times, but this time, it felt... different. I clatedly [joyfully] stepped off, watching the train make one last puff of smoke as it flew [travelled] down the tracks, as if saying its goodbyes. I dragged my suitcase easily, suddenly stronger than before. Instead of a suitcase that weighs several kilograms, it now felt weightless [The heavy suitcase that usually weighed me down now felt weightless].

#2 I surveyed the crowd for any signs of my father - I jogged [searched] my memories for any traits, but before I found any, I felt a hand on my shoulder. I flinched. I turned around, taking a moment to realise [recognise] who he was.

"You've... changed," I stammered. I silently shouted at myself for not saying hello.

"Three years is a lot," My dad [my dad] whispered. [.]

We murmured about recent events, catching each other up on each other [on our lives] and sharing fun facts all the way to our old apartment in the city.

"Did you do well at uni?" My dad [my dad] queried.

I considered for a while, then hesitantly nodded my head.

#3 As we neared our old home, a veil of silence fell over us, as if captivated by the towering apartment. For a brief moment, memories flooded my vision, a wormhole to the past; my youth [memories flooded back like a wormhole transporting me to my childhood].

We took the elevator up, speechless, as if we were tongueless [unable to speak]. We silently strolled to our apartment block [door], setting our things down.

My dad broke the silence.

"Do you still remember when you were little? You were always causing chaos here." He chuckled, gesturing towards seratch marks of [scratch marks on] the wall.

I found a hint of nutella [Nutella] sauce on the kitchen table, causing an avalanche of memories. I suddenly remembered my dad's sentimental nutella [Nutella] treats.

"Can you please make nutella [Nutella] pizza for dinner? [?"] I pleaded. "Or any other nutella [Nutella] treat?"

"I'll try" [,"] He [he] replied, a playful glint in his eyes.