Term 3 Holiday - 2025: Day 1 | 10-Day Intensive Selective Writing

Section 1:

#1: "The silent and secret garden was lush like a lush cave, green like every woodland combined! It is all you can imagine."

Strengths:

- Your opening creates a sense of mystery with words like "silent" and "secret"
- You're trying to paint a picture using colour and comparisons

Unclear comparison → When you compare the garden to a "lush cave," it's quite confusing because caves are usually dark and rocky, not green and full of plants. The comparison doesn't help your reader picture what the garden actually looks like. Additionally, saying "lush like a lush cave" repeats the same word, which makes the sentence feel a bit clumsy.

Exemplar: The silent and secret garden was bursting with greenery, like every woodland in the world had been squeezed into one magical place.

#2: "Bob, a couch potato, was outside. He was grumpy, very grumpy. He never likes to go outside. All he wishes for is to sleep, eat chips and play video games, but something seems off today."

Strengths:

- You've created a clear character with Bob, and we understand his personality straight away
- The contrast between Bob being a couch potato and standing outside creates interesting tension

Sentence choppiness → Your sentences here are all very short and simple, which makes the writing feel bumpy and disconnected. When you write "He was grumpy, very grumpy," the repetition doesn't add much information. The mix of past tense ("was") and present tense ("likes," "wishes") also makes the timeline feel muddled.

Exemplar: Bob, a complete couch potato, stood outside feeling incredibly grumpy. He never enjoyed leaving his house—all he ever wanted was to sleep, munch on chips and play video games—but something felt different today.

#3: "He started to see visions of a tree house in his trees, and then he knew now that he spent most of his time on games, and that he knew the feeling of playing outside. Build to pride is all he wants."

Strengths:

- You're showing Bob's character change, which is important for your story
- The idea of him having visions suggests something magical is happening

Confusing meaning → This section is quite hard to follow because the ideas aren't clearly connected. When you write "he knew now that he spent most of his time on games, and that he knew the feeling of playing outside," it's unclear what Bob actually realises or remembers. The phrase "Build to pride is all he wants" is particularly puzzling—does this mean he wants to feel proud? Does he want to build something? Your reader shouldn't have to guess what you mean.

Exemplar: He began to picture a magnificent tree house nestled in the branches above him. Suddenly, Bob remembered what it felt like to play outside as a younger child, and he realised how much time he'd wasted indoors. All he wanted now was to build something he could be proud of.

■ Your piece has a promising foundation—you've created an interesting character in Bob and set up a potentially exciting story about someone discovering the joy of being outdoors. However, your writing needs more clarity and depth to fully engage your reader. Right now, some of your descriptions and ideas are quite confusing, making it difficult for readers to follow what's happening or why it matters. Focus on making your comparisons accurate and helpful—when you compare something, ask yourself if it truly helps the reader picture what you're describing. Also, work on connecting your sentences more smoothly by using joining words and varying your sentence length. The ending of your piece, particularly the paragraph about Bob's realisation, needs significant development. Take time to clearly explain what Bob is thinking and feeling, and why this moment is important for his character. Additionally, consider adding more specific details about the garden itself—what does Bob actually see, hear or smell that draws him in? Instead of telling us the garden "has a lot of fun things to do," show us one or two specific things that catch Bob's attention. Your story has potential, but it needs you to slow down and really think about what each sentence is communicating to your reader.

Overall Score: 36/50

Section 2:

The silent and secret garden was lush like a lush cave, green like every woodland combined! [#1 The silent and secret garden was bursting with greenery, like every woodland in the world had been squeezed into one magical place!] It is [It was] all you ean [could] imagine. The leaf scattered [Leaves were scattered] everywhere,] Bob [creating a carpet of colour beneath the towering trees.

Bob], a couch potato, was outside. He was grumpy, very grumpy. He never likes [#2 He felt incredibly grumpy because he never liked] to go outside. All he wishes [wished] for is [was] to sleep, eat chips and play video games, but something seems [seemed] off today. He seems [seemed] to have a strong connection with the garden. It seems like the [The] garden has [appeared to have] a lot of fun things to do. He started [#3 He began] to see visions of a tree house in his trees, and then he knew now that he spent most of his time on games, and that he knew the feeling of playing outside. Build to pride is all he wants: [and suddenly remembered what it felt like to play outside as a younger child. He realised how much time he'd wasted on games. All he wanted now was to build something he could be proud of.]