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

# Section 1

### #1: Three sentences describing the setting

### Strengths:

- You've created a vivid sensory experience by including both visual elements (bright flowers, green leaves) and sound (buzzing bees), which helps readers imagine the scene clearly.
- Your use of descriptive words like "tranquil," "vibrant," and "luscious" paints a peaceful, welcoming picture of the garden.

**Weakness: Sentence flow and connection** → Your three sentences feel a bit disconnected from each other, like three separate snapshots rather than one flowing description. The first sentence tells us the walkway is long, the second focuses on flowers and bees, and the third shifts to lily pads and vines without smooth transitions linking these ideas together. For instance, "bright, vibrant flowers buzzing with bees line the tunnel" introduces a "tunnel" that wasn't mentioned before, which might confuse readers.

**Exemplar:** The tranquil walkway stretches for miles, lined with bright, vibrant flowers that hum with the gentle buzz of bees. Overhead, luscious vines create a natural canopy, whilst lily pads and soft leaves carpet the earth below.

## #2: Three sentences introducing a character (third person)

### Strengths:

- You've established an emotional connection by showing the character's grief and how the setting affects them, which makes readers care about what happens next.
- The idea that the garden provides comfort and helps the child heal is touching and gives purpose to your setting description.

Weakness: Unclear character details and actions → Your sentences leave important questions unanswered. When you write "a young grieving child stumbles into the flower filled walkway as they are visiting their grandparents," it's unclear whether the child accidentally finds this place or

deliberately goes there. The word "stumbles" suggests it's by accident, but "as they are visiting" makes it sound planned. Also, the phrase "helps then let go of their long-lost father" happens very quickly—readers don't see how or why the peace helps them, just that it does.

**Exemplar:** A young grieving child, visiting their grandparents' home, discovers the flower-filled walkway by chance. As they stand surrounded by the peaceful garden, the weight of losing their father begins to lift slightly. Here, amongst the beauty and quiet, the child feels a sense of safety they haven't experienced since their dad passed away.

## #3: Three sentences through eyes of the character (first person)

### Strengths:

- Your switch to first person brings readers closer to the character's thoughts and feelings, particularly the wondering about their father in heaven, which feels genuine.
- The realisation at the end—that dad would want them to be happy—shows character growth and provides a hopeful message.

Weakness: Punctuation affecting clarity → Your first sentence is actually two complete thoughts joined incorrectly, which makes it hard to follow. "As I am on my way to my grandparents' house, I wonder what it is like for dad in heaven, when I stop in my tracks, it was the most beautiful thing I have ever seen" runs on too long without proper breaks. The second sentence has "where" instead of "were," which changes the meaning entirely. These issues distract readers from your lovely ideas about the garden bringing peace.

**Exemplar:** As I make my way to my grandparents' house, I wonder what heaven is like for Dad. Suddenly, I stop in my tracks—before me lies the most beautiful sight I've ever seen. Flowers as bright as the sun and grass as green as limes fill the space, calming my worried heart and helping me understand that Dad would want me to be happy.

Your narrative shows real promise in creating an emotional story about grief and healing. The connection between the peaceful garden and the child's journey toward accepting their father's death is meaningful and age-appropriate. However, your piece would benefit from slowing down and showing more details about how the transformation happens. Right now, you tell us the child feels better, but

you don't show us the moment of change. What does the child do in the garden? Do they sit down? Touch the flowers? Take a deep breath? These small actions would make the healing feel more real.

Additionally, your brainstorming section shows creative thinking with interesting ideas across different prompts. The "what if" questions demonstrate you're exploring various possibilities, which is excellent. Your mind map and finalised ideas about the candle representing hope are particularly strong concepts. However, these brainstorms feel separate from your main narrative about the garden—consider how you might develop one complete story rather than switching between different ideas.

Your writing would also improve by paying closer attention to basic punctuation and word choices. Simple errors like "then" instead of "them" or "where" instead of "were" interrupt the reading experience. Also, practise joining your ideas within paragraphs more smoothly, so each sentence leads naturally to the next rather than jumping between thoughts.

Overall Score: 38/50

## Section 2

### #1 Three sentences describing the setting:

The tranquil walkway stretches for miles[, lined with] Bright [bright], vibrant flowers buzzing with bees line the tunnel and guide the way [that hum with the gentle buzz of bees]. Luscious [Overhead, luscious] leaves and lily pads line the earth as [vines create a natural canopy, whilst lily pads and soft leaves carpet the earth below.]

## #2 Three sentences introducing a character (third person):

A young grieving child stumbles into [discovers] the flower-filled walkway as they are [by chance whilst] visiting their grandparents. The peace of the spot calms the child and helps then let go of their long-lost father. [As they stand surrounded by the peaceful garden, the weight of losing their father begins to lift slightly.] They feel [Here, amongst the beauty and quiet, the child feels a sense of] safety and at home in this beautiful garden [they haven't experienced since their dad passed away].

### #3 Three sentences through eyes of the character (first person):

As I am on my way to my grandparents' house, I wonder what it is like for dad in heaven, when I stop in my tracks, it was the most beautiful thing I have ever seen. [As I make my way to my grandparents' house, I wonder what heaven is like for Dad. Suddenly, I stop in my tracks—before me lies the most beautiful sight I've ever seen.] There where [There were] flowers as bright as the sun and grass as green as limes. It calms me and makes my realise [The scene calms me and makes me realise] that dad [Dad] would want me to be happy.

### Brainstorms using what if questioning:

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust: • Bushfire • Death • Burned [Burnt] • Wasteland • Left behind

Among the toadstools: • Faries [Fairies] • Tiny • Elves • Magic • Discovery

Through the magnifying glass: • Turned tiny • Insects • Invisible • Creating fire • Science

Coral city: • Mermaids • Atlantic [Atlantis] • New species • Adventure • Discovery

### Mind map starting with one [one] idea:

- 1. By the candlelight
- 2. Camping
- 3. Nature
- 4. In the wild

### Finalise [Finalised] ideas:

- 1. A student lost in the woods with just a candle
- 2. The fire in the candle represents the hope inside of someone
- 3. Are candles a fire hazard