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

Section 1

#1: Opening paragraph (from "One morning, Zoe woke up" to "She was unsure about her day.")

Strengths:

- You've created an interesting problem right at the start, which makes readers want to know what happens next
- Your description of Zoe's morning routine with the bracelet helps us understand why it matters to her

Unclear character motivation → Your writing tells us that Zoe checks for her bracelet "as soon she wakes up," but we don't fully understand why this bracelet is so important beyond it being from her mum. You could strengthen this by showing us a specific memory or moment that made the bracelet special. When you write "whenever she wore this, it would be a good day," this feels a bit vague. What does a "good day" mean for Zoe? Does she do well on tests, have fun with friends, or feel confident?

Example: "Zoe always checked for her lucky bracelet first thing in the morning. Her mum had given it to her on the day she aced her first spelling test, and ever since then, wearing it made her feel brave and ready for anything."

#2: Search sequence (from "From pillows to blankets" to "they couldn't see the bracelet at all.")

Strengths:

- You've shown that Zoe and her family are taking the problem seriously by searching everywhere
- Including the detail about checking cameras shows modern problem-solving

Rushed pacing → This search happens very quickly in your writing, which makes it feel less important than it should be. You've compressed what could be an entire paragraph into just two sentences. Instead of simply listing where they searched ("From pillows to blankets and cupboards to drawers"), you could describe *how* they searched and what Zoe was feeling during this time. Did her heart beat faster? Did she keep hoping it would appear in the next place? The camera detail is

interesting, but it appears suddenly without explaining why they checked the cameras or what they hoped to see.

Example: "Zoe tossed her pillows aside and yanked the blankets off her bed, checking every corner twice. Her hands trembled as she opened each drawer, carefully moving her clothes around. 'Maybe it fell behind something,' she whispered, though deep down, she was starting to lose hope."

#3: Resolution (from "On the next day" to the end)

Strengths:

- You've included a clear moral lesson about positive thinking
- The story comes full circle by having Zoe realise she doesn't need the bracelet

Abrupt character transformation → Zoe changes her entire belief system very suddenly, which doesn't feel realistic. Your writing says "Zoe then starts to realize that lucky charm or not everyday is a lucky day," but this happens too quickly after she was crying rivers the day before. You haven't shown us what made her think differently. Did something specific happen during that good day that changed her mind? Did someone say something helpful? Also, the phrase "she never wore her lucky bracelet but she always had a good day" is confusing because if she never wore it again, where did it go? Did she find it? This important detail is missing.

Example: "Over the next few weeks, Zoe noticed something surprising. On Tuesday, she helped her friend solve a difficult maths problem. On Thursday, she laughed so hard at lunch that her stomach hurt. None of these good moments had anything to do with her bracelet. Slowly, Zoe began to understand that she had been creating her own good days all along."

Your piece tells an important story about self-confidence and not depending on objects for happiness, which is a valuable message. However, your writing would benefit from slowing down and adding more detail to help readers feel connected to Zoe's journey. Right now, the story moves so quickly that we don't get to experience Zoe's emotions deeply enough. Try expanding each main event into its own paragraph. For instance, you could describe what Zoe's room looked like during her frantic search, or what she did during that surprisingly good day without her bracelet. Additionally,

your ending needs more development because readers will wonder what happened to the bracelet. Think about showing Zoe's gradual realisation rather than having her suddenly understand everything after just one day. You could add a few examples of good things happening without the bracelet to make her change of heart more believable. Also, consider adding dialogue between Zoe and her parents, which would make the characters feel more real and give you opportunities to show how people react to her problem. Your story has a strong foundation, but spending more time on the middle section would help readers understand how Zoe gets from feeling hopeless to feeling confident.

Overall Score: 37/50

Section 2

#1 One morning, Zoe woke up from the rays of the sunlight. [One morning, Zoe woke to rays of sunlight streaming through her window.] Normally she would check her hands for her lucky bracelet as soon she wakes [soon as she woke] upand it would be there [, and it was always there] but [,but] today it was not! Zoe started to worry because whenever she wore this [it], it would be [she'd have] a good dayand also [. After all,] her mum gave this [had given it to her]. She was unsure about her [what the] day - [would bring.]

#2 From pillows to blankets and cupboards to drawersshe searched [, she searched frantically]. Her parents searched toobut [, but] they couldn't find it either. Her parents even checked the eameras [security cameras] but [, but] they couldn't see the bracelet at all [anywhere].

#3 Zoe slumped on [onto] the couch and she [began to cry.] started to cry a river. "How am I going to be lucky ever again [?"] she sobbed. "Itis ['s] impossible for any day to be a good day.' [."] 'Later [Later,] she didn't feel any [still felt no] better.

On the next dayZoe [, Zoe] tried her best to stay calm. Everything went just as usual[it was a good day] [—it was a good day]. "That's weird that it is [it's] a good day todayalthough [even though] I don't have my lucky bracelet [,"] Zoe said.

Zoe then starts [started] to realize [realise] that lucky charm or not [, lucky charm or not,] everyday [every day] is [was] a lucky day when you think [thought] positively. From then onwards, she never wore her lucky bracelet but [, but] she always had a good day.