## Term 3 Holiday - 2025: Day 2 | 10-Day Intensive Selective Writing

### Section 1:

**#1: Opening paragraph**"Once upon a time there was a girl called Lola. She was 9 years old and lived with a poor family. She had an older sister, Lumi and she was 17."

## Strengths:

- You've established the main characters and their relationship clearly from the start
- The age details help readers picture Lola as a young child and Lumi as nearly an adult

Character Development → Your opening introduces Lola efficiently, but we don't learn much about what makes her special or interesting. What does Lola enjoy doing? What kind of person is she—curious, brave, cautious? Adding a sentence or two about her personality would help readers connect with her before the adventure begins. For example, you might show us something she does regularly or thinks about.

**Exemplar:** Once upon a time there was a girl called Lola who loved exploring the world around her home. She was 9 years old and lived with her poor family, always dreaming of adventures beyond their small cottage.

**#2: Discovery scene**"When it was getting late, Lola went further to find to something glowing. Something gold. Something shining in the darkness. Something that must be special."

## Strengths:

- The repetition of "Something" creates excitement and mystery
- You've built suspense well as Lola approaches the treasure

Sensory Details → Whilst you tell us the coins are glowing and gold, we don't experience what Lola sees, hears, or feels in this moment. How did the light look against the darkness? What sounds did she hear? Was her heart beating fast? Adding sensory details—what she sees, hears, and feels—would make this discovery moment more vivid and exciting for readers.

**Exemplar:** When it was getting late, Lola went further until she spotted something glowing between the trees. Something gold, casting dancing shadows on the ground. Something shining like a hundred tiny stars in the darkness. Her heart thumped as she crept closer—it must be special.

**#3: Rescue scene**"The Rich Boysz started to run away as the darkness of Lumi towered over them. Then Lumi started collecting all the coins with Lola and then they went home."

# Strengths:

- The phrase "darkness of Lumi towered over them" creates a powerful image
- Lumi's rescue shows the sisters' strong bond

**Rushed Resolution** → Your ending wraps up very quickly after the exciting rescue. What happened to make the Rich Boysz so frightened? Did Lumi threaten them or show her strength somehow? How did Lola feel being rescued by her sister? The story jumps from danger to safety without showing us the important moments in between. Readers need to see what Lumi actually did and how both sisters felt afterwards.

**Exemplar:** "You're dealing with me now," Lumi said firmly, stepping forward with her fists clenched. The Rich Boysz looked at each other nervously, then stumbled backwards as Lumi's angry expression made them realise they'd gone too far. As they ran away, Lola hugged her sister tightly. "Thank you," she whispered. Together, they collected all the coins, and Lola held Lumi's hand as they walked home under the stars.

■ Your story has an exciting adventure plot with clear danger and a satisfying rescue, which keeps readers engaged. The concept of a poor girl finding treasure and facing villains is compelling. However, your piece would benefit from slowing down at key moments to help readers fully experience the story.

The middle section where Lola discovers the gold and gets caught moves at a good pace, but the beginning and ending feel rushed. Think about what happens before and after the main action—these moments matter too. Additionally, your characterisation of Lola could be stronger throughout. We know her age and that she's poor, but what makes her different from any other 9-year-old? Show us her thoughts, feelings, and personality through her actions and reactions.

Also, consider the questions your story raises but doesn't answer. Why was the gold just sitting there? What will Lola's family do with all these coins? Did the Rich Boysz steal this money from someone? Adding a few sentences to address these points would make your story feel more complete. The Rich

Boysz themselves could use more development—right now they're just "fierce and strong" men, but giving them distinct personalities or motivations would make them more interesting villains.

Your dialogue works well to show action, but you could add more of it earlier in the story. What did Lola say when she found the flower or saw the gold? Dialogue helps readers hear your characters' voices and understand their personalities better.

Overall Score: 42/50

#### Section 2:

### The Abandoned River

#1 → Once upon a time there was a girl called Lola. She was 9 years old and lived with a poor family. She had an older sister, Lumi<del>and</del> [, and] she was 17. One day Lola went outsidebut [, but] she never knew it would change her life.

Lola went behind her house, smelling the creek waters. She found a blooming flower<del>and</del> [, and] she watched as this flower danced in the sunlight. After a while, Lola walked along the beautiful arch that made way for her.

#2 → When it was getting late, Lola went further to find to something [something] glowing. Something gold. Something shining in the darkness. Something that must be special. Lola spent no time, her legs going back and forth together, until she reached the piles and piles of gold coins. WOWW! She thought, as she started rapidly picking up the coins and stuffing them into her pockets. Soon, Lola heard some movement behind her, as there were a group of men, all looking fierce and strong. They were heading right for Lola.

Lola's eyes widened. Who were they? All she could think of was to hide with all the coins that she had in a nearby bush. Hopefully they don't notice. Lola looked back, her face facing the opposite way of [from] the menbut [, but] after a while, she felt something grab and lift her by the collar on her shirt.

"Aha! Caught you!" cried one of the men. Lola was trembling like a dangling doll and saw the four ferocious men. As the men started talking to each other, Lola was still in the air, listening in from outside the circle, then [. Then] she started to know who was who. The boss of the group was Griff,

the person who was holding on to her was Bull, the vice boss was Fang, and the other member was Edgar. They called themselves the 'Rich Boysz'[.]

The Rich Boysz started to empty Lola's pockets, which were overflowing with their money. Lola started and tried to wiggle outbut [, but] it felt like Bull's hand was a tight prison cell.

"You are NEVER going to escape Bull's hands!" exclaimed Edgar, the whole gang laughing like it was the funniest thing in the world.

The Rich Boysz started to walk back with Lola until Fang felt a strong tug on his collar and fell backwards.

"WHO DID THIS?" boomed Bull, one of the strongest in the group. Lola was tired, but all she could see was a tall girl who somewhat looked familiar. Then, [. Then] Lola's eyes lit up. "LUMIII~!" cried Lola, who [before] just got Griff's hand cupped on her mouth.

#3 → "Let her go now!" cried Lumi. The Rich Boysz were stunned how upset [by how upset] a girl could get. Lola could feel the tight prison cell getting more loose and loose. Soon, Bull let go and Lola fell to the ground. She soon ran behind Lumi and started picking up her coins again. The Rich Boysz started to run away as the darkness of Lumi towered over them. Then Lumi started collecting all the coins with Lolaand then [, and] they went home.

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