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

Section 1

#1: "One cool evening, Beck sat next to the river bank looking at the Sun as it sank underwater. He felt the chill wind blowing beside, calmly."

Strengths:

- Your opening creates a peaceful atmosphere that draws readers into the scene
- You've used sensory details (cool evening, chill wind) to help readers imagine the setting

Unclear Spatial Description → When you write "the Sun as it sank underwater," this creates confusion because the sun sets below the horizon, not literally underwater. Additionally, "wind blowing beside" doesn't clearly tell us where the wind is going or what it's beside. Your readers need clearer directional language to picture the scene properly.

Exemplar: One cool evening, Beck sat on the river bank watching the sun sink towards the horizon. He felt the chill wind blowing across the water, rustling the grass around him.

#2: "The second he came back only to find more rocks. The rocks looked and smelled fresh like they had just had a bath."

Strengths:

- Your description of the rocks as "fresh like they had just had a bath" is creative and gives the rocks personality
- You're building curiosity about why Beck keeps returning to find more rocks

Incomplete Sentence Structure → The phrase "The second he came back only to find more rocks" is missing important information. Your readers don't know when Beck came back (the next day? later that evening?) or where he came back from. This makes the timeline confusing. A complete sentence needs to tell us these details so readers can follow Beck's journey clearly.

Exemplar: The next day, when Beck returned to the river, he discovered even more smooth rocks scattered along the bank. The rocks looked and smelled fresh, like they had just been washed clean by the current.

#3: "One morning when he headed towards the river bank he saw dust and rocks flying everywhere though he didn't really care. When he arrived at the river bank he saw water splashing all around the place."

Strengths:

- You've created an interesting contrast between Beck's usual calm visits and this chaotic scene
- Your description of the dramatic change at the river builds tension in your story

Contradictory Character Response → You write that Beck "didn't really care" about the dust and rocks flying everywhere, but then immediately show him feeling "useless and not enough" and worried it was his fault. These reactions don't match. If Beck truly didn't care, he wouldn't feel so upset and guilty. Your character's emotions need to stay consistent so readers can understand and believe his reactions to events.

Exemplar: One morning when he headed towards the river bank, he saw dust and rocks flying everywhere. His heart raced with worry—something was wrong. When he arrived at the river bank, he saw water splashing violently all around the place.

Your piece tells an imaginative story about friendship and discovery that primary school readers would enjoy. The idea of a water spirit befriending a lonely boy is creative and engaging. However, your writing would benefit from developing the relationship between Beck and the water spirit more deeply. Currently, you tell us they became "super good friends" and played together, but you don't show us what they actually did or talked about. Adding one or two specific scenes where they interact would make their friendship feel more real. Additionally, your story moves very quickly from one event to the next without giving readers time to understand why things matter. For example, why was the river Beck's "best friend" before he even met the water spirit? What made those smooth rocks special? When you slow down and include these details, your story will have more depth. Also, think about Beck's emotions more carefully—when would he feel scared, relieved, or sad? Make sure his reactions match what's happening in the story. Finally, your ending mentions the water spirit's father being sick, which is interesting, but it appears suddenly without any hints earlier. You could strengthen your story by adding small clues throughout that the water spirit might need to leave someday.

Overall Score: 38/50

Section 2

#1 → One cool evening, Beck sat next to the river bank looking at the Sun as it sank underwater. He felt the chill wind blowing beside, calmly. [One cool evening, Beck sat on the river bank, watching the sun sink towards the horizon. He felt the chill wind blowing across the water, calm and steady.] Before heading homehe noticed an old rock[—] not an uneven stone but a smooth one. He picked it up with curiosity and with great care he [carefully] placed it in his pocket. #2 → The second he came back only to find more rocks. [The next day, when he returned to the river, he discovered even more smooth rocks.] The rocks looked and smelled freshlike they had just had a bath. After this daythe river became his best friend [.] When [Whenever] he is [was] bored, lonely, sad, angry [angry,] or if he just wants [wanted] to talkhe always comes [came] to the river bank. One morning when he headed towards the river bankhe saw dust and rocks flying everywherethough [, though] he didn't really eare [understand what was happening]. When he arrived at the river bankhe saw water splashing all around the place. Beck felt useless and not enough when he arrivedhe [. He] thought it was his fault that the place turned into [had become] this. Suddenly avoice appeared out of nowhere and told him that it was not his fault. Beck was first scared of [by] the voicethen [, but his fear soon] turned into curiosity. The voice told him that he [it] was the water spirit of the river and it was the season to refreshso [, which is why] that is why water was all around [splashing everywhere along] the river and rocks flying everywhere [were being tossed about]. He was so relieved when he heard that [this] because he was genuinely seared [worried] it was his problem. For [From] then on, the water spirit and Beck became super good [close] friends [.] everytime [Every time] Beck came back [home] from school, he would go outside and play with the water spirit. Honestly, Beck was pretty [truly] happy playing with the water spirit. #3 \rightarrow One day, the water spirit disappeared [.] later [Later,] Beck found out that the water spirit went [had gone] to another river because his father was sick. When he found out although [Although] he was sadhe [, Beck] knew that the water spirit had to go.