

## **Smarthinking Tutor Response Form**

Your tutor has written overview comments about your essay in the form below. Your tutor has also embedded comments **[in bold and in brackets]** within your essay. Thank you for choosing Smarthinking to help you improve your writing!

Hello Luke! I'm Kelly B. I look forward to working with you on this **Essay Center Review** to improve your writing today. Let's get started!

### **\*Writing Strength:**

You use interesting verbs such as muffle. This kind of interesting language gets your readers' attention!

### **Content Development:**

The key here will be to help readers better understand what is going on in the narrator's life. Though we can kind of guess that there is a problem with a lost love here, we can't determine exactly what is happening. The key to developing writing in a poem is to "show" the reader how to feel and think rather than to "tell" them how to feel and think about something.

Let's look at a passage from your poem:

- And hot blood is boiling from my pain  
          As I try to muffle my words from being spoken

What is really happening here? Where is the main character? What has happened to him? Show us the events in the poem so we'll be able to feel along with the narrator rather than having you tell us how to feel.

Here's a similar example:

- A triumphant smile dazzled everyone,  
          lifting his heart.

Feeling his heels graze the last hurdle without knocking it down,  
his face opened up into a smile that dazzled the crowd.

The first couple of lines don't show us why the character is happy. The second two lines show us.

### **Organization:**

In a poem, it's especially important that you avoid clichés, or phrases that people have heard enough times that they have lost their unique meaning. The best way to fix a cliché is to think of a phrase or idea that no one else has written before. The best way to do that is to really try to see/hear something in the way that only you would. For example, instead of saying

- It was raining cats and dogs . . .

I could say,

- It rained so hard my boots fought the flow in the gutter like canoes in a rough river.

Instead of the following cliché, what specific description could you use to illustrate how life used to be for the person in the poem?

- The world use to be at his feet

### Grammar & Mechanics:

When you come to the end of a sentence in a poem, you need to end it with a period or other kind of closing punctuation.

Where would you put a period in the following passage from your poem?

- Here I sat and listened to a roar in my heart  
And hot blood is boiling from my pain  
As I try to muffle my words from being spoken  
Cause these are powerful, unfiltered, and penetrating Verbs  
Of a disturbed nerd now to be heard

### Summary of Next Steps:

- Use description to show rather than tell.
- Replace clichés with original phrases and descriptions.
- End sentences with periods.

Thank you for submitting your essay for a review, Lucas. I enjoyed helping you with this step in the revision process. Have a good day!

– Kelly B.

You can find more information about writing, grammar, and usage in the [Smarthinking Writer's Handbook](#).

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Please look for comments **[in bold and in brackets]** in your essay below.  
Thank you for submitting your work to Smarthinking! We hope to see you again soon.

Here I sat and listened to a roar in my heart

And hot blood is boiling from my pain

As I try to muffle my words from being spoken

Cause these are powerful, unfiltered, and penetrating Verbs

Of a disturbed nerd now to be heard

Never shall forgiveness be uttered across lips toward the

girl ,who stole my oyster's pearl, this man's heart is blackened so dark

Sunshine forever absent in his world, So faces are seen by his and **[Where should you put a period in the previous line?]**

Beauty could be a beast, who can see for Darkness is his veil **[What do you mean by the cliché "beauty could be a beast?"]**

No light to see, No Heart to feel life from its continuous beat.

The world use to be at his feet,

Smiling and crying, Two emotions lost thru sadness, A broken Hearted LOver

That never sleeps. **[Why does he never sleep? What happened? Show your readers so they are able to connect with the character in your poem.]**

By:

Lucas C. Mcknight