       Horror/ Suspense- Essay

The sun was ~~rising down~~ [setting] as Harry and his friends cycled through the park. “Let’s have one more race, let's see who can cycle up to the woods the fastest Harry or Ollie,” said James. [I’m getting a Stranger Things/It feeling here, so good!] Everyone started to oooh and ahhh as they knew that they were the best and fastest cyclers here. “You need to go up to the woods and keep on going until you see a house. Don’t stop until you have reached the house or you are disqualified. The winner will get a brand new Spitfire 3000.” shouted James, as his friend went and got the bike out from his van. James knew there was no house in the forest and he was making it up so he could have the bike himself. Harry looked at Ollie as Ollie looked at Harry; they both wanted the bike as it had just come out. “3...2...1… GO!” shouted James. SWOOSH! They were off as fast as lightning [nice simile here!] both pumping their legs as fast as they could. Hoping they won’t get a puncture. They went deeper and deeper [nice repetition, showing the depth of th woods, very spooky!] into the woods until they could only see darkness. They kept on ~~pedaling~~ [pedalling] as fast as their legs would take them. They kept on going. After riding for more than twenty minutes, Harry gasped. He wasn’t aware of the time and suddenly saw the moon emerging from the clouds. Then as he was watching the moon. “Look! We are nearly there. There is a house right in front of us.”  Harry looked up at the towering house. No, you could not even call it a house, it was more like a castle. “ Race you there!” called Ollie speeding off. Harry looked at the castle, it was dark and had lights flickering. [could you find a more exciting way to describe it? Maybe using a simile or metaphor?] Harry’s heart skipped a beat, he thought of turning back but, when he looked back all he could see was blackness.  He knew he had to carry on the journey, with Ollie.  As they approached the house, their ~~heart was in their mouth~~ [hearts were in their mouths]~~.~~ What was in there? What will happen? Should they go in? [lovely repeated rhetorical questions, really building tension!] “WOW!” exclaimed Ollie, suddenly not scared anymore “ Check this out, dude!” As he took a selfie of himself.

“ O-ollie, I don’t think that this is a good idea.” stammered Harry. But Ollie was already opening the colossal door. [I like that you’ve created this contrast between the attitudes! It really helps to build tension!] SCREECH! Went to the door when Ollie opened it. All Harry could hear was his breath and his heartbeat. Then it occurred to him. There was a full moon. [Nice ending, leaves the story open to interpretation!]

**What Went Well:**

-I really like this story, Thea! You build tension very well, firstly in an innocent way with the cycling race but then turning it into something darker!

-You use some good suspense techniques, such as rhetorical questions, varying sentence lengths and a simile! This is a really good start 😊

-I love the dramatic irony of the end, with one character worrying about going in and the other saying it will be fine. The reader knows that something bad is probably going to happen, and so the tension rises!

**Even Better If…:**

-I would love to see you using even more horror techniques in your work, such as metaphors, similes, pathetic fallacy etc. For example, could you describe the castle in more detail, making it seem terrifying? Think back to the video and the allusion to the gates of hell. Something like this would be great!

-You may just need to take some more time over some phrasing, such as ‘their hearts were in their mouths’. If it doesn’t sound quite right, you can have someone look over it quickly!

-You have the potential to use amazing high-level language, and I would love to see you incorporating it! For example, words like ‘dark’ could be upgraded using a thesaurus to find a more advanced word that means the same thing 😊