

Part 1 – Pearl

The Metropolis –

As I stepped into the divine, exquisite metropolis, I couldn't believe my eyes. It was sprawling in self-righteousness, buildings pierced the clouds. Streets giggled as dutiful, fast shoes tickled them. God elegantly painted the magnificent, dazzling sunrise with the subtle strokes of a mellow artist. The colour of the once sapphire azure was now shades of vermillion, rose, gold and saffron. The scent of lavender perfume was strong, as people bustled around, getting ready for appointments, business meetings, work and parties. But, the most stunning, eye-catching feature of this extravagant megalopolis was the monumental, majestic, monarchical mansion which stood in the centre of the city. **Beautifully written!**

Regardless of the beauty, I couldn't shake the feeling that something was not quite right. I pushed my worries deep within my mind, but they kept ringing in my ear. 'Something is just not right here' ...

This was a wonderful piece! I loved how abundant the descriptions are. I could absolutely imagine the setting you were trying to paint. However, you did not incorporate the themes of discovery, alienation, and danger into your writing. As well as not writing how the experience affected you and your learnings about the city and its inhabitants. A lot of questions weren't answered.
Mark=38/50

Part 2 – Pearl

Fire –

Cozy arms of warmth embraced me. Fire crackled like a sizzling barbecue. Had it been only hours since I was out in the freezing, sub-zero temperatures? Only hours since the Siberian wind cracked my skin? Days since I heard news of my family's whereabouts? I couldn't keep track of the time. I wasn't valiant enough to go out and experience death again. My trembling, glacial palms melted from the heat. This was where I was meant to be. I'm not heroic, not courageous, I'm just a coward. A lowly worm. A disgrace. Fire accepted me. So, with Fire I will stay. I know she will keep me safe.

The question marks disrupt the atmosphere of your writing. I'm a bit confused what you were trying to achieve here. It's not engaging but confusing. The ending also had me questioning why you suddenly downgraded yourself, calling yourself a lowly worm. I read again, thinking maybe I missed a detail. But it's you who's missing details! I believe you would've been able to effectively elicit emotions from your readers if you had added more substance into your writing, like including a flashback or something nostalgic that would make your readers say: aaahh that's why they felt that way
Mark=40/50

Part 3 – Pearl

Sing –

Martha took a deep breath and stepped onto the stage of celebrities. All singers started from here. Their blessings are still on the floor. A wave of gasps and murmurs erupted. They were all against Martha. 'Impossible, I hope you do well!' whispered a small, foreign girl from the front rows. Martha smiles at her and whispers back 'I'm going to make history, and pave the future for you.'

Martha opens her mouth and sings. Her voice is mesmerizing. As the words flow out of her mouth, she is enveloped in memories.

Her friends and family pressuring her to quit singing and be a housewife. Her husband yelling at her for singing. The racism throughout her life of being Indian. The sexism against her, just because she is a woman.

As she ends her song, she opens her eyes. The audience is silent and the judges faces are transfixed in shock. All of a sudden the audience erupts in cheers and the judges buzzers go – Bang! Bang! Bang!!!!!!!

Martha is invited to say a few words, as the winner of the contest. Her words were not of boast or her trying, they were something else entirely. They were 'Be kind and equal to one another. I have experienced so much racism and sexism in my life. How does a different skin colour or different language make one group superior and another worth nothing? Why do different genders get treated differently? Remember this, if a woman gave birth to you, a woman can do anything. I give my blessing to all who enter this stage, regardless of colour, status and gender.'

It was going so well but the ending was a bit unrealistic. I wish it were that easy. It's good that you are aware of the contemporary issues during the 1920s. Women didn't have equal rights as men at that time and racism was rampant as well. It wasn't a good era to be an immigrant woman :((). That said, the ending is unrealistic because I don't think racism and sexism would be easily resolved just by winning a singing contest. If anything, she'd be shamed and disrespected. Moreover, you have failed to emphasize that the "young woman" is dreaming of becoming a jazz singer. That is the prompt and it's not clearly demonstrated in your writing. But plot-wise, it was actually good!
Mark=45/50