

Submission #3

By [Lamha](#) / 12 April 2023

This first section contains a lot of describing what the main character wants/is doing, try paint the story with show don't tell

I am an explorer of the final frontier – space. For as long as I can remember, I have been obsessed with discovering new life forms and exploring the unknown. Today, I am fulfilling my dreams. I have set out on a mission to a distant galaxy, seeking out new life forms and uncovering the mysteries of the universe. I am filled with a sense of wonder and excitement, but also a hint of fear. I do not know what lies ahead in this strange new place, and I am prepared for anything. All I know is that I am determined to find something new, and make a name for myself in the history of space exploration – just imagine, Reni Legstrong, a place in the hall of fame. As of now I am 23 but 15 years ago something just buzzed in me to stop watching princesses and power puff girls and start to explore on my hand-me-down iPad. I started to explore the puzzling web. I was absolutely intrigued, but my parents weren't. They were the typical 'Girls should wear skirts, the men do the work and the women stay and clean the house and take care of children.' Until I turned 8 I always had princess themed parties, with games like putting the tiara on the princesses head, the crown hunt and princess statues, like all the other girls but that year everything seemed to change. I wanted a space themed party and nothing was stopping me – well of course my parents. After that my parents told me I was a tomboy and shouldn't be a girl if I didn't want to have a princess party but instead become a stinky boy who doesn't take showers. The image in my head was revolting but I insisted on having a space party. My parents agreed, reluctantly, and bought a mere poster saying 'Space is Cool!' with emerald green aliens and a person with a space-suit on in the corner, peeking out. They also got a microscopic cake with earth and the moon and yellow stars. I was – well quite disappointed but it was better than a pink princess birthday. They bought a cheap \$5 costume off amazon and said happy birthday and gave me space erasers and a planet pencil which I could clearly see had a big yellow label saying '80% off!'. I was disappointed yet again but after that I became a heap more confident in myself. Anyways back to the point. I was in my 3 metre rocket ship, working for M.A.S.A, and was about to land on a creepy looking pink and green planet.

As I went down the pressure started to get to me. I started vomiting all over the place unsure if I was sick or an alien disease already got to me. A sickening smell crept up my nostrils and made me want to vomit more. I started to cough out blood, and I was petrified. As I slowly settled down on the ground an ocean of purple and blue greeted me and I felt extremely light-headed. The next thing I knew was I was at some plant ritual with vines wrapped around me tightly and some wrinkly alien touching my forehead. I felt much better and my nausea started to drift away. I asked them who they were and they suddenly all gasped and bowed down. I was extremely bewildered to see they were pulling my arm. They were quite tiny I must say, about the size of a toddler. I followed them and saw a man about my age, looking exactly identical to me, sleeping on a bed of weird banana-shaped orange leaves. I asked who he was and he looked up at me and said 'Who are you? What are you doing here!' Confused, I narrated what happened and he gasped and he replied 'Welcome home Reni, I'm your brother Beni, we- well it's a long story sit down and I'll tell you.'

Feedback: Overall, an interesting narrative. The use of sensory imagery could be explored further, especially in the first half of the story.

Structure: Use paragraphs to separate the ideas and sequences within the story to make it easier to understand when reading. The storyline could be clearer as well, giving background information is good to understand motivations of the character but make sure it's also balanced with current events that are happening. In this case it feels heavily weighted towards narrating the past rather than focusing on the present.

Narrative: There is a disconnect between what is currently happening in the space exploration part of the story to the past experience. There is a compelling theme about overcoming challenges when everyone else is against you. But this is not continued into the rest of the story. The second main passage could be related more to the character's motivations.

Grammar and Vocabulary: Some grammar points and vocabulary choices could be clearer and more direct. For example 'I became a heap more confident in myself' could be 'the confidence inside me grew' or just 'I became more confident in myself'.