

Submission #5

By goyalbhawanagmail-com / 12 April 2023

The mission

-include why the character is leaving

My heart was trying to escape my body, as it thumped louder than ever. I boarded the rocket, and I was doubting every life choice. My children and wife were left at home alone and I was a million miles away. I was sweating and shivering as if I might never see them again. MY lifetime worth of memories flashed right past me as the ground below me started to rumble. The beautiful green, safe, sweet Earth was soon gone. Now it was a shiny blue orb, floating in midair, that had no idea where it was. The dangers of this outside world were uncountable. This new species I was bound to encounter might even be worse.

unimaginable

The journey there was lengthy, and I could barely take in what had just happened. The silver, metal, strong spaceship glided across millions of galaxies, in the hope of finding life. I could only taste the bareness of this ship and was dying of loneliness. I could only remember the rich, smooth, silky texture of the melting chocolate inside my mouth. I could only long for a bite of salty yet sweet fries. I was sleeping calmly until it happened! I had landed!

make this a bigger point, the purpose of the mission

consider a clearer transition, this is quite abrupt

why are the feet small?

I stepped outside, only to find a rocky, brown surface, lurking under my minuscule feet. There was a deafening silence as a nauseating stench came and knocked me out, smacking me inside my nostrils. After a long few hours, I woke up, only to find myself lying on a smooth, velvety surface that massaged every inch of your painful body. I could hear the wind howling as it crashed against the curvy edges of the fluorescent, vibrant rock. The land around me was barren and I could barely manage to get up onto my feet but with all my courage I kept going.

choice of verb, flooding my nostrils

my

a bit unclear when talking about sense of hearing
but using visual imagery like fluorescent.

blood-curdling

not necessary

I walked on into the serene landscape, until I heard a blood-curling shrill. I rushed (at least as quickly as I could) towards the sound, and there I encountered the mystery species. They had long thin bodies with twelve legs. They walked around like land octopuses and had glowing colour-changing bodies. Their colour changed as per their mood. I calmly approached them, hoping that everything would be alright. This was my only chance!

The one that appeared to be the leader yelled...

Instantly, they all stared at me with their large, beady eyes, as their bodies turned red! One of them (that seemed to be their leader) yelled charge and the sword of fear pierced me right through the middle of my heart. I ran as fast as I could. I ran like I had never before. I ran for my life. I raced all the way to my spaceship that was my nightmare dream. It was once what I had hated but now it was my best friend. I wanted to be wrapped around its safe arms, as they formed a protective cocoon around me. I suddenly felt like a speck of dirt that was trapped in a flood that was full of murky brown water, that harmed and killed millions of families. It struck terror in humans, so what would happen to a speck of dust?

choice of vocabulary for clarity, nightmare dream - prison, best friend - salvation, safe arms - safe walls

good attempt of analogy but a little distracting and pulls you out of the current situation to think about another scenario

extinction more relevant to entire species rather than single individual

I finally reached my ship. My heart had skipped hundreds of beats and I was on the brink of extinction. I pushed every button I could until my ship finally took off. I was proud and terrified at the same time. I had done it! I had achieved my mission! I was going to make everybody proud and most importantly, I was going to be a role model for my children. Years later, my spaceship finally landed on Earth. I ran as I explained and showed my revolutionary discovery to my colleagues. I knew I had gained everybody's respect. I knew that this was going to be the start of something huge. I knew everybody was proud. I knew I had achieved the mission!

how does the character know?

Feedback: Overall, good use of sensory imagery to create an immersive narrative. In some places this can be further developed to have greater impact.

Structure: Each paragraph is clear in its intent. It's challenging to create a complete story with the short word limit. It would be good to look at ways to make the transitions between each sequence clearer. Adding more detail will help with this. For example in the beginning paragraph, we understand that the main character is leaving Earth but we don't yet know why. Understanding the motivation will help set the stage later on that makes sense with the characters decisions and actions.

Narrative: It's a good start on using sensory imagery to help us understand what the character is experiencing. We can take this further by exploring how this makes the character feel and thinks in certain situations, so we understand motivations behind the actions taken. For example, "I walked on into the serene landscape, until I heard a blood-curdling shrill. I rushed (at least as quickly as I could) towards the sound, and there I encountered the mystery species." Here, it is unclear as to why the character might be rushing towards the sound. Is it because it was surprising? Because they were searching for something? The mission is a little unclear since it's not mentioned what the actual mission is at any point.

Grammar & Vocabulary: There are some cases where grammar could be improved to communicate clearer and the vocabulary choices could be more relevant.