

Section 1:

#1: a. Strengths:

- Vivid descriptions of the futuristic setting
- Effective introduction of the main characters and their dynamics

b. Weaknesses: Overloaded exposition Your opening paragraph attempts to introduce too many elements at once, which can overwhelm the reader. You introduce the ship, the setting, the characters, and their relationships all in rapid succession. This makes it difficult for the reader to fully grasp and engage with each element. For instance, the sentence "Four bickering cousins sat on a titanium deck, arguing roughly amongst each other" is immediately followed by detailed descriptions of each cousin, which can be hard to follow.

c. Exemplar: "The Stargazer glided through the cosmos, its passengers settling into their luxurious holiday. On the titanium deck, four cousins bickered, their voices rising above the gentle hum of the ship's engines."

#2: a. Strengths:

- Creates an intriguing mystery with the parents' unexplained absence
- Shows character development through the cousins' reactions

b. Weaknesses: Inconsistent pacing The pacing in this section feels rushed and uneven. You quickly transition from a leisurely breakfast scene to a tense situation without giving the reader time to adjust. The dialogue feels abrupt, with characters jumping to conclusions rapidly. For example, Zoe's sudden realisation about the parents' absence and the immediate shift to checking on them feels too sudden.

c. Exemplar: "As the artificial morning wore on, an uneasy feeling settled over the cousins. Zoe glanced at the empty adult seats, a frown creasing her brow. 'Has anyone seen our parents today?'"

#3: a. Strengths:

- Builds tension effectively
- Shows Liam's expertise and its limitations

b. Weaknesses: Underdeveloped conflict resolution The scene where Liam attempts to hack the stasis pods lacks sufficient detail to fully engage the reader. While you

describe Liam's physical reactions well, the actual process of hacking is glossed over. This misses an opportunity to showcase Liam's skills and the complexity of the task. The failure of the hacking attempt also feels abrupt, leaving the reader without a clear sense of what went wrong or what the consequences might be.

c. Exemplar: "Liam's fingers flew over the keys, his eyes darting between the complex symbols and flashing lights. Minutes stretched into what felt like hours as he navigated the intricate security systems. Finally, with a frustrated groan, he slumped back. 'It's no use,' he gasped. 'The encryption is like nothing I've ever seen before.'"

Actionable task: Rewrite the opening paragraph, focusing on introducing the setting and characters more gradually. Start with a vivid description of the Stargazer, then introduce the cousins one by one, showing their personalities through their actions and dialogue rather than telling the reader about their backgrounds.

Overall score: 42/50

Section 2: Revision Guidelines

Stargazer's Secret

The Stargazer flew through space and time as the passengers on board settled into a comfy and luxurious holiday. Holographic servants wafted through the midnight sky, politely offering cool Jupiter Crush Pro drinks. A built-in masseuse chair whirred to life, gentle sensors feeling for the mood of today's massage. The adults were enjoying a quiet life. Well, not really. #1 Four bickering cousins sat on a titanium deck, arguing roughly amongst each other. Liam, in his nerdy 12 years of life, had devoted most of it to fighting with Adam, physics prodigy who completely disagreed with Liam's tech-whiz strategies. Zoe and Mia had long since been rivals, fighting for the rich territory of popularity and fame. Not meeting each other face-to-face since the Martians' unsuccessful invasion, they had lots to fight about.

After a cool relaxing day for the adults and a rough day of this-and-that for the cousins, the big family all tucked into their stasis pods to drift off into solar sleep, some hooked up to whirring machines that played soft music while others had ones to keep good dreams. Adam and Mia both stayed up, reading books on biology and physics. Being a combo of brother-sister, they had a weird sort of peace between them. The soft glow of the stars in the galaxy illuminated the creepily silent halls, bathing them in a silvery-red shimmer. Zoe stayed awake, admiring the stars in absolute wonder. "It's a whole new world," she whispered, and settled into a dreamless sleep. The next morning, the cousins woke to an artificial blue sky with clouds drifting sleepily up ahead. Liam yawned and blushed. Looking down upon his Superman ~~pjs~~ [pyjamas], he glanced

around at the bewildered stares. Embarrassment tickled his cheeks, turning them neon red.

#2 The cousins sauntered down to the outdoor breakfast parlour. Breakfast was whatever you wanted – be it a simple ~~Weetbix~~ [Weetabix] combo or fluffy hot pancakes with almonds, walnuts, maple syrup, raspberry coulis, and chantilly cream. Liam's fingers twitched – habit when staying still, as his brain was hardwired to coding. Zoe glanced uneasily at the halls leading to the stasis pods, and pushed away her food. She couldn't eat with the big knot of nausea in her stomach. "Uh... is it weird to you that the parents aren't... awake yet? Mum's usually up with the sun, and I know Aunt Caroline is an early riser. What's going on?" Adam's lip twitched nervously, and he too pushed his steaming plate away. "Something's wrong," whispered Mia, the grin melting from her face and replaced with a worried frown. Liam already strode away to check on them. "Liam!" Adam hissed. "Wait! Where are you going?" Liam turned around and beckoned them to follow and the three cousins, stunned, jogged to his spot. Liam never left a remark hanging in the air without a comeback!

Zoe's breath fogged the glass of her mother's stasis pod, and she pressed her hand against it. "Their vitals are stable... what's happening?" She stopped her knees from trembling, not showing any sign of weakness as she turned back to her rivals. "I would assume they're in a coma-like trance, as their vitals seem to be okay and they can't wake up." Mia whispered. An eerie silence settled over the room as a chill went down everyone's backs. Mia's chin quivered. "I hope they're okay. Is there any way to... get them out?" Liam's eyes suddenly brightened. He glanced at his fingers, wiggling them. "I can hack their stasis pods! I can try to release them!"

#3 Liam's eyes glazed over as he glanced at the controls. Thousands upon thousands of buttons were placed on the control panel, in all different coloured] hues with faded, outdated runes marking the keys. A single bead of sweat made its way down Liam's spine. His heart sped up, pounding against his ribs like a caged bird as he clacked at the keys. The air was tense as the cousins glanced apprehensively at him. Liam slumped against the wall, panting. "It-It's no use," he gasped, rubbing his eyes. "I can't get in." Beeping filled the room; the keys were flashing and glowing, the alarms wailing and crying. "Well, genius?" Zoe snapped at Liam over the roar. "What's your next faulty plan?" Adam glanced at the stasis pods and the monitors. His father's pod showed an irregular pulse. His own heart nearly stopped and his face twisted in despair. He was sure he didn't imagine it. How were they going to save their parents? And worse – themselves?