

## Section 1:

### #1 (Opening paragraphs): a. Strengths:

- Engaging opening that immediately draws the reader into the action
- Effective use of first-person narrative to create a personal connection

b. Weaknesses: Lack of context Your opening, while intriguing, fails to provide sufficient context for the reader. You dive straight into the action without establishing the setting or the narrator's background. For instance, the line "I was finally going to prove my worth to the family" leaves the reader wondering about the family's significance and the narrator's motivation.

c. Exemplar: "As I dug through the sand with rapid speed, the rusty chest I uncovered held more than just gold—it was my chance to prove my worth as a descendant of the greatest pirate to ever sail the seven seas."

### #2 (Middle paragraphs describing the journey): a. Strengths:

- Introduces conflict and tension through crew injuries and pursuit by another ship
- Builds suspense with the suggestion of betrayal within the crew

b. Weakness: Underdeveloped plot points Your narrative introduces several plot points without fully developing them. For example, you mention that "George accidentally hit another pirate ship," but you don't explain how this happened or its immediate consequences. Similarly, the betrayal plot is resolved too quickly, robbing it of its dramatic potential.

c. Exemplar: "As we navigated treacherous waters, tensions aboard our ship reached a boiling point. The constant pursuit by the vessel George had carelessly struck, coupled with whispered plots of mutiny, created an atmosphere thick with suspicion and fear."

### #3 (Concluding paragraphs): a. Strengths:

- Unexpected twist with the father's appearance
- Attempts to convey a moral lesson about the importance of relationships

b. Weakness: Rushed resolution Your conclusion feels abrupt and underdeveloped. The sudden appearance of the father and the swift resolution of the treasure hunt lack the depth and explanation needed to satisfy the reader. The line "Treasure can be anything, my son but family and friends always come first" feels disconnected from the rest of the narrative.

c. Exemplar: "As I reached the volcano's peak, exhausted and singed, I found not a chest of gold, but my father gazing at the horizon. 'The real treasure,' he said, turning to me with a knowing smile, 'is the journey that brought you here, and the bonds you've forged along the way.'"

Actionable task: Rewrite the middle section of your story, focusing on developing the conflict between the narrator and the pursuing ship. Ensure you provide more details about how the conflict escalates and its impact on the crew's dynamics.

Overall score: 41/50

## Section 2: Revision Guidelines

### **Skeleton Isle** To the Royal Geographical Society

As I ~~dig~~ [dug] through the sand with rapid speed I ~~find~~ [found] a rusty chest lying on the bottom. "I'm on the right track," I ~~say~~ [said], I was finally going to prove my worth to the family, being a descendant from the greatest pirate of the seven seas. I ~~open~~ [opened] the rusty chest and ~~dive~~ [dived] into the gold to find a ragged, old parchment. Carefully I ~~open~~ [opened] up the parchment to find a map with serpentine letters stating, only the most courageous of people can take on this quest. Noticing the messy writing, I ~~smirk~~ [smirked], knowing that it was my dad who wrote this as I ~~prepare~~ [prepared] to sail to Skeleton Isle.

#1 It's been three days since we set sail and disaster ~~has bestowed~~ [had befallen] upon us. Half of the crew had injured themselves while climbing the ladders. While everyone was helping them to recover, my best mate George accidentally hit another pirate ship while getting bored and now we're constantly getting chased by these sea dwelling scallywags.

#2 I stumbled upon something strange in the past two days. I've had an eerie sense that part of ~~me~~ [my] crew is working against me. Every night when I'm sleeping I hear soft whispers from the cabin next to me and I feel like the ship that has been chasing us is actually allied with some of ~~me~~ [my] own crew members.

A big racket broke ~~up~~ [out] this morning and there was a battle royale for control over the ship. People were thrown off the ship and I decided to stop it as it was disrupting ~~me~~ [my] sleep. To my surprise after defeating the betrayers George had told me that they had a plot to overthrow me and steal the map and the treasure!

We walked onto the island, and there stood a sign saying, beware of all. My crew cautiously crept across the path and there in the broad daylight laid the captain of the ship that George had hit five days ago. I shouted to ~~me~~ [my] crew to hold him off as I

checked out the treasure. Traversing through the thick jungle I reached the ~~hike~~ [peak] of the volcano.

I started to notice the curse, trying ~~it's~~ [its] hardest to make me fail my long adventure. Rocks flew down and winds blew in all directions, storms started to brew in the midst of the island. All my work had come down to this life or death. I got to the top of the volcano, the lava burning me. To my surprise I saw my father gazing over the beautiful view.

#3 "Where's the treasure," I asked. "Treasure can be anything, my son but family and friends always come first." As we walked down the volcano I started to remember all my friends and recite this line. Friends and family over treasure.