

Section 1:

#1: "I was trembling as I blew off the dust on the chest, revealing a small, weathered map inside. The serpentine letters on it read, 'Only the bravest of the brave would even dare to go on this quest.' To me, it felt like finding Excalibur. Despite my fear, I knew I had to embark on the journey. I set my course for the Cape of Bass, a place whispered about in legends and seldom visited."

a. Strengths:

- Vivid imagery creates an engaging opening scene
- Effective use of tension and anticipation

b. Weaknesses: Lack of character development Your writing dives straight into the action without providing context about the protagonist. Who is this character? Why are they on this quest? Adding a brief background would help readers connect with the narrator and understand their motivations. For instance, the phrase "Despite my fear, I knew I had to embark on the journey" could be expanded to explain why the journey is necessary.

c. Exemplar: "My hands trembled as I blew off the dust, revealing a small, weathered map inside the chest. As the son of a renowned explorer, I knew this moment could define my legacy. The serpentine letters on the parchment read, 'Only the bravest of the brave would even dare to go on this quest.' To me, it felt like finding Excalibur."

#2: "Searching through the island, I found a note hidden in a crevice: 'Son, I know you found this. The treasure is not here, but on the volcano.' Looking up, I saw a massive volcano towering in the island's centre. Despite the warnings and sceptical shouts from others, I knew I had to follow my father's clue."

a. Strengths:

- Introduces an intriguing plot twist
- Creates suspense and raises stakes

b. Weaknesses: Abrupt revelation Your writing introduces a significant plot element (the father's note) without adequate build-up. The sudden appearance of this note feels jarring and lacks context. Why is the father involved? How does the protagonist recognise the handwriting? Providing more details about the relationship between the protagonist and their father earlier in the story would make this revelation more impactful.

c. Exemplar: "As I searched the island, my thoughts drifted to my father's last expedition. Suddenly, I spotted a familiar scrawl on a note hidden in a crevice: 'Son, I knew you'd make it this far. The true treasure awaits atop the volcano.' Looking up, I saw the massive peak looming in the island's centre. Despite the warnings and sceptical shouts from others, I knew I had to trust my father's wisdom one last time."

#3: "Climbing the volcano was treacherous. At the summit, I found an inscription barely visible on the ground: 'Trust me, jump.' Without hesitation, I leaped into the molten lava below. The searing heat was intense, but I felt no pain. When I opened my eyes, I was in a hidden chamber, face-to-face with my father."

a. Strengths:

- Builds tension through a high-stakes decision
- Unexpected twist in the narrative

b. Weaknesses: Logical inconsistency Your writing takes a sudden turn into the realm of fantasy without proper setup. The protagonist jumps into molten lava and survives without explanation, which breaks the established realism of the story. This abrupt shift in genre can be jarring for readers. Consider foreshadowing magical elements earlier in the story or providing a more plausible explanation for the protagonist's survival.

c. Exemplar: "Climbing the volcano was treacherous. At the summit, I found an inscription barely visible on the ground: 'Trust me, jump.' Remembering the ancient amulet my father had given me, I clutched it tightly and leaped. As I fell, the amulet glowed, enveloping me in a protective barrier. When I opened my eyes, I found myself in a hidden chamber, face-to-face with my father."

Actionable task: Rewrite the opening paragraph, focusing on introducing your protagonist's background and motivations. Ensure to identify key aspects of their character that will tie into later plot developments, such as their relationship with their father and any special abilities or items they possess.

Overall score: 42/50

Section 2: Revision Guidelines

I was trembling as I blew off the dust on the chest, revealing a small, weathered map inside. The serpentine letters on it read, "Only the bravest of the brave would even dare to go on this quest." To me, it felt like finding Excalibur. Despite my fear, I knew I had to embark on the journey. I set my course for the Cape of Bass, a place whispered about in legends and seldom visited. #1

With adrenaline coursing through me, I made final preparations for the daunting voyage. The prospect of reaching the Cape filled me with both excitement and apprehension. As our ship left Britain's shores, we plunged into thick fog and violent storms. Giant waves threatened to engulf us, but our determination pushed us forward.

Just when we thought we might be safe, a ship bearing a skull flag emerged from the mist. Pirates—the notorious Outbacks, known for their brutal reputation. Their massive ~~boats~~ [ships], each 40 metres long with crews of at least 30, bore down on us. I cursed under my breath as they prepared to board. The ensuing battle was fierce. We fought valiantly, but the Outbacks' superior numbers and weaponry made the struggle intense. Fortunately, our experienced captain managed to navigate and fend off the attackers, though a cannonball's near miss suggested they might have some form of advanced communication to coordinate their strikes.

After narrowly escaping the pirates, we finally sighted the Isle of Skulls. To our dismay, the island was teeming with competitors—at least ten pirate groups and two other exploration teams. The competition was fiercer than anticipated. As the son of the world's greatest pirate, I felt confident but quickly ~~realized~~ [realised] the stakes were higher than I had anticipated.

Searching through the island, I found a note hidden in a crevice: "Son, I know you found this. The treasure is not here, but on the volcano." Looking up, I saw a massive volcano towering in the island's centre. Despite the warnings and sceptical shouts from others, I knew I had to follow my father's clue. #2

Climbing the volcano was treacherous. At the summit, I found an inscription barely visible on the ground: "Trust me, jump." Without hesitation, I leaped into the molten lava below. The searing heat was intense, but I felt no pain. When I opened my eyes, I was in a hidden chamber, face-to-face with my father. #3

"Son! You've found me!" he exclaimed, embracing me warmly.

Eager to know the location of the treasure, I asked, "So where is it?"

He stepped aside and said, "Nothing, not diamonds or gold is more important than family."

~~As we walked out together, those words became etched in my mind. Returning home, I vowed to prioritise friendship and family over any treasure hunt. This journey had taught me that the greatest riches were not material but the bonds we share with those we love.~~ [As we walked out together, his words etched themselves into my mind. Returning home, I vowed to prioritise friendship and family over any treasure hunt. This journey

had taught me that the greatest riches were not material, but the bonds we share with those we love.]