

## Section 1:

### #1: Opening paragraph a. Strengths:

- Intriguing opening line that captures attention
- Sets a mysterious tone with the mention of a "deathly aura"

b. Weaknesses: Lack of Context Your opening paragraph, while intriguing, lacks essential context. You introduce Zoey Chen and mention plays, but it's unclear where this is taking place or why plays are being held so frequently. This leaves the reader confused about the setting and circumstances.

c. Exemplar: "16-year-old Zoey Chen stumbled onto the dimly lit stage of St. Mary's School Theatre, her costume stained with fake blood, a familiar sense of exhaustion weighing on her. 'When will this endless cycle of plays end?' she wondered, recalling the gruelling year of back-to-back performances that had consumed her life."

### #2: Dialogue between salesman and rich man a. Strengths:

- Introduces character conflict
- Attempts to use specific vocabulary (e.g., "harlequin", "motley")

b. Weaknesses: Unrealistic Dialogue Your dialogue between the salesman and the rich man feels forced and unnatural. The rich man's response about the "harlequin" and "motley" content seems out of place and overly formal for a street conversation. This makes the interaction less believable and disrupts the flow of your narrative.

c. Exemplar: "Excuse me, sir," the salesman said, his voice hopeful as he approached a well-dressed man. "Would you like to buy today's paper? It's only a penny." The man glanced at the newspaper, his nose wrinkling slightly. "No, thank you. I'm not interested in tabloids."

### #3: Ending paragraphs a. Strengths:

- Attempts to create a dramatic ending
- Links back to the opening character (Zoey)

b. Weaknesses: Rushed and Underdeveloped Conclusion Your conclusion feels abrupt and underdeveloped. The sudden death of the salesman and Zoey's reaction seem disconnected from the rest of the story. There's a lack of build-up to these events, making them feel forced rather than a natural progression of the narrative. The phrase

"Zoey balled her eyes" (which should be "bawled") is an example of how the rushed ending leads to errors and unclear imagery.

c. Exemplar: "As the mayor's words echoed across the sombre gathering, Zoey felt a wave of emotion crash over her. The salesman's tragic end had struck a chord deep within her. With tears streaming down her face, she stumbled away from the crowd, her mind in turmoil. Lost in her thoughts, she stepped into the road, unaware of the approaching truck."

Actionable task: Rewrite the opening paragraph, focusing on establishing a clear setting and context for Zoey's situation. Ensure you identify the location, the reason for the frequent plays, and Zoey's emotional state more explicitly.

Overall score: /50

## Section 2: Revision Guidelines

16-year-old Zoey Chen bled onto the stage, a deathly aura surrounding her, as usual a play was being held. 'When are they going to stop?' Zoey wondered; they had been doing back to back plays for over a year now. #1

"Hello, does anyone want to buy this newspaper?" a salesman called in a cheerful voice as people walked past him. The salesman snuggled up next to a rich man, ~~he had assumed he was rich and said,~~ [he assumed was wealthy and said,] "Do you want to buy this newspaper, it's only a penny?"

~~"I would've, but not after I saw the harlequin on the cover and looking at the contents it's too motley for me,"~~ [The rich man glanced at the newspaper with disdain. "I might have, but the gaudy cover and chaotic content put me off,"] the rich man said. #2

"I have another newspaper from a different company if you want it?"

"NO!"

After the day ends.

"I didn't sell anything today," cried the salesman into the phone, "I normally sell about 20 per day."

"It's ok [okay]," his mum] replied.

"No, it's not, I have to take care of you mum]."

"I'm fine honey," said his mum, lying in the hospital bed in a gown, staring into space.

Even that wasn't the underbelly of the play.

"Would anyone like to buy this one-of-a-kind torch?" questioned the salesman just like yesterday.

This continued for many days, dark circles formed around the salesman's eyes. He nearly fainted once. He would always try and charm a rich person into buying his products, but they never would.

A week later.

~~I'm not going to give up thought the salesman I have to make my money today, my mother is about to die because of cancer.~~ [I'm not going to give up, thought the salesman. I have to make my money today; my mother is about to die because of cancer.] "Does anyone want to buy this torch, it's only a few pounds."

"Why would we buy that," people snickered, "He's a fraud, he should be arrested."

Someone finally came to him.

"How many ~~wats~~ [watts] is that torch?" questioned the customer.

"500."

"I'll buy it."

"How much?"

~~two hundred pounds.~~ ["Two hundred pounds."]

"Ok, deal."

As the salesman walked off with the money a car hurtled towards him. The car of the buyer. After that the town ~~was felt off~~ [felt off] without the salesman calling out do you want to buy this item. A requiem was played at his funeral where his town gathered. "Here we are playing a requiem to Scott the Salesman," called the mayor of the town.

Zoey was shaken. She walked out trying not to cry. As soon as no one could see her Zoey ~~balled~~ [bawled] her eyes and crossed the road where she was hit by a truck just like the salesman. #3