

## Section 1:

### #1: Opening paragraph

Strengths: a) You create a vivid atmosphere of mystery and intrigue. b) The description of the map effectively sets the scene.

Weakness: Overuse of adjectives Your opening paragraph, while atmospheric, suffers from an overabundance of descriptive words. This can make the writing feel cluttered and less impactful. For instance, "jaundiced, brittle parchment" and "malevolent skull-shaped object" could be simplified for greater effect.

Exemplar: "Jack's trembling hands smoothed out the corners of an old parchment. A faded skull haunted the map, its hollow eyes seeming to stare into Jack's soul."

### #2: Dialogue and character introduction

Strengths: a) You introduce characters naturally through dialogue. b) The grandfather's reaction adds tension and intrigue to the story.

Weakness: Lack of character depth While you introduce characters, there's limited development of their personalities or motivations. The grandfather's exclamation "By Neptune's Beard!" feels clichéd and doesn't offer much insight into his character.

Exemplar: "Jack's grandfather entered, his weathered face paling at the sight of the map. 'I never thought I'd see this again,' he murmured, his voice thick with memory and fear."

### #3: Climax and resolution

Strengths: a) You build tension effectively with the battle scene. b) The resolution ties back to the theme of the curse.

Weakness: Rushed pacing The climax and resolution feel hurried, with events occurring in quick succession without enough detail or emotional impact. For example, "Pain seared and he winced. Tears trembled and rolled down his cheeks as he desperately tried to shatter the amulet, which he did with all his might" lacks the tension and struggle this pivotal moment deserves.

Exemplar: "Pain seared through Jack's body as Silver clasped the cursed amulet around his neck. Gritting his teeth against the agony, Jack grasped the amulet with trembling hands. As tears streamed down his face, he summoned every ounce of strength he possessed and wrenched at the cold metal."

Actionable Task: Rewrite the climax of your story, focusing on slowing down the pacing. Take time to describe Jack's emotions, the sensory details of his surroundings, and the actions of other characters to create a more immersive and impactful scene.

Overall Score: 41/50

## Section 2: Revision Guidelines

### The Cursed Map of Skeleton Isle

Jack's heart raced as his trembling hands smoothed out the thin corners of a ~~jaundiced~~ [yellowed], brittle parchment. Faded ink revealed a malevolent skull-shaped object, haunting his soul as he stared deep into it. In the corner, serpentine writing warned: "Beware the curse of ~~skeleton~~ [Skeleton] Isle. Only the pure of heart may claim the treasure."

#1: In came Jack's grandfather, his eyes widening at the sight of the map.

"By Neptune's Beard!" he exclaimed, clutching his chest, "This is Old Captain Flint's map. The curse is real ~~young boy~~ [young lad]. Are you ready to face it?" he questioned with a terse nod.

Jack traced the route to ~~Skelton~~ [Skeleton] Isle, his mind clouded with visions of adventure. But a cold shiver ran down his spine as he noticed a dark blur in the map's edge. Was it merely age? Or was it a hint of something more sinister?

The Salty Voyager creaked and groaned as it travelled] away from the harbour. Jack's companions were excitement and trepidation as he stood on the deck, squinting his eyes into the distance. Exhausted by the day's endeavours, Jack clambered onto his bed, only to be awakened by horrifying screams. Sliding out of bed and barging into the chaos, he realised that a kraken-like creature bobbed up and down in the water, twirling the ship around and intent on drowning them.

Abruptly, Jack recalled the time when he read a book ~~of how~~ [on how] to defeat a Kraken: by shining a light into the middle of its eye. ~~Whipping~~ [Whisking] the contents of his pocket, Jack pulled out a flashlight, reflecting it into the monster's pupil~~,~~ [.] ~~with~~ [With] an earth splitting shriek, the kraken slipped underwater, bubbles trailing after it.

"Nice move, lad." Silver grunted, his prosthetic eye glaring at Jack, creating an uncomfortable tinge ~~erawl~~ [crawling] up his body.

#2: Jack's heart pounded as he ~~eaves-dropped~~ [eavesdropped] on Silver's conspiracy with his ~~minute~~ [small] crew.

"We must strike at midnight," he snarled, "the boy has to die first. Then we claim the treasure ourselves."

Jack's pulse quickened as he raced his way towards the captain's cabin, contemplating a way to stay hidden. Anarchy ~~aroused~~ [arose] from the ship's crew as a battle erupted, tortured shrieks filling the air.

"There's no way we can win this fight!" Jack's captain yelled, while battling off an attacker. "We must abandon the ship."

As Jack plunged into the water, its cold gleaming surface touching his face, he paddled towards Skeleton Isle. The ebony sand crunched underfoot as he followed a ~~bare bore~~ [bare pole] pointing towards a direction.

"I guess that's where we're meant to go then." Jack whispered doubtfully.

A stone entrance towered over them as pirate figures and swirls appeared on them. He felt the cold touch of Silver's pistol on his neck, as he placed the cursed amulet around his throat. ~~Pain seared and he winced. Tears trembled and rolled down his cheeks as he desperately tried to shatter the amulet, which he did with all his might.~~ [Pain seared through Jack's body. Tears trembled and rolled down his cheeks as he desperately grasped the amulet, summoning all his strength to shatter it.] The cavern shook as centuries of dark magic unveiled.

#3: Sailing his journey home, the gold left behind and a valuable lesson taught, Jack realised that the real treasure was not the gold, but the determination embedded in their souls, the choices he made and the paths he chose to walk.