

## Section 1:

### #1 Opening paragraph: Strengths:

- Strong sensory details effectively convey Rick's anxiety through physical symptoms
- Vivid description of the rocket environment creates an immersive experience

Weaknesses: Show vs Tell → Your opening relies heavily on directly stating emotions rather than revealing them through action and dialogue. Phrases like "Rick's heart dropped" and "he was doomed" tell rather than show his emotional state.

*Exemplar: "The rocket engines gurgled to life, sending tremors through Rick's hands as he gripped the armrest. Each vibration, each mechanical whir, pierced through him like a dentist's drill."*

### #2 Earth view scene: Strengths:

- Effective contrast between fear and wonder
- Compelling visual imagery of Earth as a "giant marble"

Weaknesses: Abrupt Transition → Your shift from fear to amazement happens too suddenly. The phrase "everything changed" lacks the gradual transformation that would make this moment more impactful.

*Exemplar: "As the darkness of space enveloped them, Rick's gaze drifted to the window. There, suspended in endless black, Earth gleamed like an illuminated marble, its vastness both humbling and mesmerising."*

### #3 Mars exploration scene: Strengths:

- Interesting details about specific activities
- Good inclusion of collaborative elements

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped Action → Your description of the Mars exploration feels rushed with phrases like "scattered everywhere like little mice" diminishing the significance of this historic moment.

*Exemplar: "They stepped onto the rusty Martian surface with measured precision, each footprint marking humanity's presence on this alien world. While some team members carefully navigated towards the trapped Spirit rover, others began the intricate process of 3D printing their shelter."*

Actionable Task: Rewrite the *Mars exploration scene* focusing on *creating a more detailed sequence of events* that captures the gravity of being the first humans on Mars. Include specific sensory details about the Martian environment and the astronauts' emotional responses to their historic achievement.

**Score: 42/50**

Section 2:

#1 Rick's heart dropped as he heard the gurgling of the rocket engines. He was doomed. Here he was, on a super-secret mission to be one of the first people on Mars, and all he could think about was how sweaty and nervous he felt. His hands were shaking like crazy, and the constant noise around him was so annoying it reminded him of a trip to the dentist. ~~He really wished he could be back on Earth instead of zooming through space at a million kilometres an hour!~~ [He longed to be back on Earth rather than hurtling through space at a million kilometres an hour.] The smell of machines and oil was getting on his nerves too. Everything inside the rocket was blinding white and boring grey, and Rick felt like he might throw up.

Then a robotic voice said, "We are now exiting the Earth's atmosphere." Great, now he knew there was no turning back. ~~He had to do this because there weren't many other options.~~ [He had no choice but to press forward.]

#2 But when he looked out the window, everything changed. Earth looked incredible, all lit up like a giant marble. It was so huge he couldn't believe it! Goosebumps ran up his arms, and he felt super excited.

A few days later, while hanging out in the rocket lounge, someone said, "We're approaching Mars in a few hours! Get your gear ready to be the first humans there!"

"Maybe being in space isn't so bad," Rick thought. Then another astronaut said, "I know, right? Space runs in my family—my grandpa is Neil Armstrong!" They quickly became friends and

discovered they had a lot in common. ~~Time flew by like a rocket!~~ [Time seemed to accelerate through the vastness of space.]

#3 When they finally landed on Mars, they cheered and scattered everywhere like little mice. They were pumped to research and explore. Some tried to rescue the rover Spirit, which was stuck in a sand pit, while others used 3D printers to build a cool shelter.

After a few months, it was time to leave Mars because they were running low on supplies. On the way back, Rick felt tingly just thinking about seeing Earth again. He was proud of what they'd accomplished, but he also learned something important: what seemed scary at first turned out to be an awesome adventure, and he made a ton of friends along the way. ~~He realized he shouldn't judge things just by how they looked!~~ [He learned that fear often masks the most extraordinary opportunities for growth and discovery.]