

Section 1:

#1: Beginning of the story (Paragraphs 1-2) a. Strengths:

- You provide a clear setting and context for the story.
- You use vivid details to engage the reader, such as "HUMONGOUS car" and "simply delicious" Udon.

b. Weaknesses: Inconsistent tense Your narrative switches between past and present tense, which can be confusing for the reader. For example, you write "we thought it would be so much fun!" (past tense) but then say "So our parents planned to go glamping the next day" (present tense).

c. Exemplar: "On the 19th of April, my family and a couple of my friends went Blue Mountain glamping. We were so excited! Our parents had planned the trip for the next day, the 20th of April."

#2: Snake encounter during the bushwalk (Paragraphs 3-4) a. Strengths:

- You effectively build tension and suspense.
- You use dialogue to advance the story and reveal character reactions.

b. Weaknesses: Repetitive sentence structure Your writing relies heavily on simple sentences, which can make the pacing feel monotonous. For instance, "I screamed and the instructor turned around, he saw the snake too. He told me to freeze I did, and the snake slowly slithered away behind a rock."

c. Exemplar: "I screamed, causing the instructor to turn around. Upon seeing the snake, he urgently instructed me to freeze. As I stood motionless, the snake slowly slithered away behind a rock."

#3: Conclusion and moral (Final paragraph) a. Strengths:

- You provide a clear moral to your story.
- You relate the lesson learned to a real-life situation.

b. Weaknesses: Abrupt ending Your conclusion feels rushed and doesn't fully tie back to the prompt about overcoming difficulties. You state the moral but don't reflect on how the experience made you feel or what you personally learned from it.

c. Exemplar: "The moral of my story is that when encountering a snake, it's crucial to remain still and quiet. This experience taught me the importance of staying calm in frightening situations and how knowledge can help overcome fear. Although it was

terrifying at the time, I now feel more confident in my ability to handle unexpected challenges."

Actionable task: Rewrite the final paragraph, focusing on how this experience changed you personally. Reflect on your emotions during and after the event, and explain how you've grown or what skills you've developed as a result of this challenging situation.

Overall score: 40/50

Section 2: Revision Guidelines

Disaster at the Blue Mountains (Based on a true story, experienced by Olivia Zhang, which is me!)

#1: On the 19th of April, my family and a couple of my friends went Blue Mountain glamping. We thought it would be so much fun! ~~So our parents planned to go glamping the next day, which was the 20th of April.~~ [Our parents had planned for us to go glamping the next day, which was the 20th of April.] Straight after I woke up, I loaded the bags up in the back seat of my dad's HUMONGOUS car. ~~o that afternoon we packed our bags and went to the Blue Mountains!~~ [That afternoon, we set off for the Blue Mountains!] On the way, we passed the city, and we ate lunch there. I had a bowl of Udon; it was simply delicious. Then we continued our way to the Blue Mountains.

Once we got there, we had a tourist map and we started searching intensely for our glamping tents. I decided to waste no time and I plonked right down on the mattress. † [If] you were 1 kilometre away from the Blue Mountains, you probably heard my agonising scream. The mattress was rock hard! My back still hurts from then... My parents decided we should go on a bush walk so we could explore the Blue Mountains a bit better. I thought that was a great idea, until I saw a sign in the middle of bushwalking that ~~wrote~~ [read] 'Beware of venomous snakes.' I freaked out and there is a reason why I freaked out, it is because I am terrified of snakes. The instructor/tour guy told us not to be worried, but his words did not sink ~~int~~ [in] me.

#2: Soon, we were passing a rock and I heard a hissing noise. I turned around and a snake was following me the whole time. I screamed and the instructor turned around, he saw the snake too. He told me ~~to~~ [to] freeze I did, and the snake slowly slithered away behind a rock. I was soon terrified, and we had to cancel the bushwalk eventually because I was too scared to move. Now, my friends still joke about me freaking out when † [a] snake came out behind a rock.

A few hours later...

Finally it was dinner time, I was so hungry. We had spaghetti and meatballs for the main meal and ice-cream for dessert. After, we had marshmallows around the campfire as a treat. While we were enjoying eating the roasted marshmallows and listening to spooky stories told by more friends Emma and Abbigail. Abbigail is actually 1 day younger than me and is born in the same hospital as me, she prefers to be called Abby though. Suddenly I heard that exact same hissing sound again! I immediately recognised the sound and stayed frozen like I was pressed pause. I tried not to blink my eyes. I knew a snake was behind me, but I learnt that never ever move or make sound when you hear a hissing noise of a snake.

Finally the noise went away, I will never forget what you have to do when you hear that awfully familiar hissing noise.

#3: The moral of the story I told you today is that never move when you see a snake or hear a hissing noise because the snake will notice you are a target and start shooting venom at you.