

Section 1:

#1 (Opening paragraph): a. Strengths:

- Your piece starts with a relatable setting, creating immediate familiarity.
- You effectively build tension through the sudden shift from normalcy to crisis.

b. Weaknesses: Abrupt Escalation Your writing jumps too quickly from a normal day to an intense crisis without sufficient build-up. For instance, the transition from "Or at least it seemed normal..." to "Suddenly, the siren started" is too sudden. This abruptness can make the situation feel less believable and reduce the impact of the tension you're trying to create.

c. Exemplar: "It seemed like a normal, boring day at school – Maths, English, History and Science. But as I sat in class, an uneasy feeling crept over me. The air felt thick with tension, and then suddenly, the siren started blaring."

#2 (Second paragraph): a. Strengths:

- Your use of sensory details, like "sounds of gunshots echoed past", enhances the scene's intensity.
- The characters' actions convey their fear effectively.

b. Weaknesses: Lack of Character Development While your characters are active in the scene, we don't get a sense of their individual personalities or relationships. For example, when you write "Areba, Haiku and myself sprinted out of the school", we don't know anything about these characters or their dynamics. This lack of characterisation makes it difficult for readers to connect emotionally with the story.

c. Exemplar: "Areba, always the quickest thinker, grabbed my hand. Haiku, usually timid but now driven by adrenaline, led the way as we sprinted out of the school."

#3 (Third and fourth paragraphs): a. Strengths:

- Your inclusion of a fantastical element adds an unexpected twist to the story.
- The message about friendship is heartwarming.

b. Weaknesses: Inconsistent Tone and Pacing The sudden shift from a tense, realistic situation to a fantastical one with superpowers is jarring and doesn't fit with the established tone. For instance, the transition from "We were so thirsty so we started walking in search of water" to "Suddenly, myself, Areba and Haiku floated up into the

sky and gained incredible powers" is too abrupt and feels out of place with the earlier part of the story.

c. Exemplar: "As we caught our breath, the world around us began to shimmer and change. It was as if our intense experience had awakened something within us, something extraordinary."

Actionable task: Rewrite the third and fourth paragraphs, focusing on maintaining a consistent tone throughout the story. If you want to include fantastical elements, foreshadow them earlier in the narrative to make the transition smoother.

Overall score: 41/50

Section 2: Revision Guidelines

That Last Minute Decision

It was a normal boring day at school – ~~Math~~ [Maths], English, History and Science. Or at least it seemed normal... Suddenly, the siren started. '~~We~~ ['We] are under lockdown, teachers lock all doors and windows and close your blinds.' My friends and I were screaming our heads off, as we ran out of the class before our teacher could close the door. As we were running we heard footsteps behind us. We ran even faster, and listened to the sound of a gun reloading. #1

~~Areba, Haiku and myself sprinted out of the school and bolted out of the gate before anyone could catch us.~~ [Areba, Haiku and I sprinted out of the school and bolted out of the gate before anyone could catch us.] The sounds of gunshots echoed past. We were sure the kidnapper was still behind us so we didn't dare to stop or look back. After a long time of intense running there was nothing we could do but have a break and look back. #2

We were so thirsty so we started walking in search of water and each of us were reassuring each other saying it's fine. Suddenly, ~~myself~~ [I], Areba and Haiku floated up into the sky and gained incredible powers. Areba exclaimed that she could hear voices murmuring in her ears that your dream is here. Once all of that happened our group immediately saw a pool of water. "Yay we finally found some water and have superpowers"! The second we drank the water I was transported back to my house and so did the others. ~~That~~ [That] was the time I finally ~~realized~~ [realised] if ~~i~~ [I] had to do it alone I would not be here right now.

So I hope you now know that having best friends is more than anything. #3