

Section 1:

#1: "On the last day of summer, Lucas found a glass jar buried in the sand, and inside was a message written in a language he couldn't understand. As he grabbed the emerald bottle and unravelled the letter, it read very strangely."

Strengths:

- Strong opening that creates intrigue and mystery
- Good use of descriptive details with "emerald bottle"

Weakness: Inconsistent Object Description → Your writing switches between "glass jar" and "emerald bottle" when referring to the same object. This creates confusion for readers trying to picture the scene.

Exemplar: ***On the last day of summer, Lucas found an emerald glass bottle buried in the sand, and inside was a message written in a language he couldn't understand. As he carefully unravelled the letter, it read very strangely.***

#2: "Day after day he had racked his mind- For years he had dreamed of buried treasure and maps in bottles, but not in a jumbled mess of numbers."

Strengths:

- Shows character's inner thoughts and dreams
- Creates emotional connection with Lucas

Weakness: Time Frame Confusion → Your writing jumps between "a few days" and "for years" without clear connection, making the timeline hard to follow.

Exemplar: ***Day after day he had racked his mind, thinking of how his childhood dreams of finding buried treasure had never included such a puzzling mess of numbers.***

#3: "What happened next sent a visceral chill down his spine. His eyes flickered across the soulless text staring from the screen."

Strengths:

- Effective build-up of tension
- Good use of physical reaction to show fear

Weakness: Rushed Revelation → Your writing moves too quickly from the discovery to the reaction without giving enough weight to the decoded message's impact.

Exemplar: *What happened next froze Lucas in place, sending a visceral chill down his spine. His eyes flickered across the screen again and again, refusing to believe the soulless text before him.*

■ Your story has a compelling mystery at its core, but needs more development of Lucas's emotional journey. Try expanding on his internal struggle between curiosity and fear. Consider adding more details about his decision-making process when choosing to decode the message. You could strengthen the ending by showing more of Lucas's specific worries rather than leaving it open-ended.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the scene where Lucas decodes the message, focusing on his emotional state and internal dialogue before, during, and after the revelation.

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**Score: 40/50**

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Section 2:

#1 On the last day of summer, Lucas found a glass jar [an emerald glass bottle] buried in the sand, and inside was a message written in a language he couldn't understand. ~~As he grabbed the emerald bottle and unravelled the letter,~~ [As he carefully unravelled the mysterious letter,] it read very strangely. In fact, the slightly ~~erust~~ [crusted] paper read nothing but a series of numbers-212421442343444215154444232442143111331521344542442321245115114232544234111423344344112215

#2 It had been a few days since then. He had found it widely unsuccessful to decipher it, and it made little sense. ~~Day after day he had racked his mind. For years he had dreamed of buried treasure and maps in bottles, but not in a jumbled mess of numbers.~~ [Day after day he had racked his mind, thinking of how his childhood dreams of finding buried treasure had never included such a puzzling mess of numbers.]

For now, he just had to wait and imagine all the amazing things this could lead to.

Perhaps it was meant for someone else to find. But... Seriously, that \*has \*to be the worst way to send a private message.

Eventually, Lucas decided to use the internet. He felt bad doing it, because if it really led to something interesting or a prize for solving it or something, it would be a bit dishonest. But ignoring his guilty feeling, he typed it into *Cipher Solver X* and clicked enter.

~~#3 What happened next sent a visceral chill down his spine. His eyes flickered across the soulless text staring from the screen.~~ [What happened next froze Lucas in place, sending a visceral chill down his spine. His eyes flickered across the screen again and again, refusing to believe the soulless text before him.] It read out 'fifth street third lane fourth five army road hostages murder invasion espionage'.

He had not found a great treasure but an immense burden. Was this real or just some stupid neighbourhoodkid playing a sick prank.

All he could do was wait- To find out.