## Section 1:

#1: "The photograph fell from the old book, revealing a face I hadn't seen in years and memories I had forgotten. How long has it been 20 25 years since this awful memory was out of my brain. The screams, wars, blood stains, fights and frightened children."

Strengths:

- Strong emotional opening that draws readers in
- Effective use of sensory details to set the scene

Weakness: Unclear timeline  $\rightarrow$  The passage jumps between different time periods without clear transitions. The mention of "20 25 years" creates confusion about when these events took place. The memories seem to blend together without a clear sequence.

## "The photograph slipped from between the yellowed pages, revealing a face I hadn't seen in twenty-five years. The memories flooded back - the screams, the bloodstains, the frightened children huddled together during the war."

#2: "My hands touched the frame so carefully it felt like a great treasure I would never ever lose. Why had they gone so far leaving me and my older sibling just why did they have to go to war I will always be thinking about it?"

Strengths:

- Captures deep emotional connection to the photograph
- Shows strong family bonds through physical description

Weakness: Rushed emotions  $\rightarrow$  The feelings are stated rather than shown through details. The questions run together without giving readers time to feel the impact of each thought.

## "My fingers traced the frame delicately, as if it might crumble at my touch. Each time I looked at it, the same questions haunted me - why did they choose to leave us? Why did the war have to take them away?"

#3: "At that time, when I was 9, I felt like I was hallucinating it just happened way too fast for me I wasn't prepared for it. It was quite tricky for me and my sister to be doing everything it is quite tricky raising yourself up."

Strengths:

- Captures the confusion of childhood trauma
- Shows the struggle of growing up too quickly

Weakness: Repetitive phrasing  $\rightarrow$  The word "tricky" is used multiple times, and ideas aren't fully developed. The impact of being nine years old during such trauma needs more detail.

## "At nine years old, everything felt like a nightmare I couldn't wake up from. My sister and I were suddenly forced to become adults, learning to survive on our own when we should have been playing with toys."

• Your piece has a strong emotional core that readers can connect with. The theme of family separation during wartime is powerful, but needs more specific details to help readers feel present in the moments you describe. Try adding more sensory details - what did the photograph smell like? How did the paper feel? What sounds do you remember from that time? Additionally, focus on showing one emotion at a time rather than rushing through several feelings at once. Also, consider describing your sister more - what was your relationship like? How did you support each other? Your ending builds suspense, but needs a stronger conclusion to tie everything together.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

#1 The photograph fell from the old book, revealing a face I hadn't seen in years and memories I had forgotten. How long has it been 20 25 years [It had been twenty-five years] since this awful memory was out of my brain. The screams, wars, blood stains, fights and frightened children.

#2 My hands touched the frame so carefully it felt like a great treasure I would never ever lose. [I touched the frame with trembling fingers, treating it like a precious treasure I could never bear to lose.] Why had they gone so far leaving me and my older sibling just why did they have to go to war I will always be thinking about it? [Why had they gone so far away, leaving me and my older sibling behind? Why did they have to go to war? These questions would haunt me forever.]

The frames I grabbed from the attic were as dusty as ever as snow was filled everywhere. Whenever I look at these frames, I start crying heavily like a big storm is about to approach with thunder and lightning but I will always try to stay strong. Just like how my parents always would say "if you stay strong and brave good will always come to you".

#3 At that time, when I was 9, I felt like I was hallucinating it just happened way too fast for me I wasn't prepared for it. [When I was nine, everything felt like a horrible dream - events unfolding

too quickly for my young mind to process.] It was quite tricky for me and my sister to be doing everything it is quite tricky raising yourself up. [My sister and I struggled to manage on our own, forced to grow up far too soon.] Then I realiz[s]ed something had been bugging me the whole time. When I was 9, I was wondering why our parents went to war and left us behind. There had to be some good explanation for this. Then it was that I realiz[s]ed...