

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Strong opening that creates curiosity through sensory details
- Effective setup of the setting and atmosphere

Weakness: Limited physical description → Your opening could be enhanced with more specific details about the stairs and attic. Phrases like "creaky stairs" and "ancient items" are good starts but need more depth to help readers picture the scene better.

I carefully made my way up the worn wooden stairs that groaned beneath my feet, wondering what mysterious treasures and long-forgotten items might be waiting in the shadowy attic above.

#2 (Third paragraph) Strengths:

- Good use of colour to draw attention to the important book
- Natural flow of discovering the photograph

Weakness: Rushed discovery moment → Your reveal of finding the photograph feels too quick. The sentence "As I took it out of its old home" moves too fast from spotting the book to finding the photo, not giving readers time to feel the importance of this moment.

With trembling hands, I carefully pulled the bright orange book from its dusty spot. As the cover opened, a yellowed photograph slipped out, revealing a face I hadn't seen in years - one that brought back a flood of forgotten memories.

#3 (Fourth and Fifth paragraphs) Strengths:

- Personal connection shown through specific memories
- Emotional depth in describing the relationship

Weakness: Timeline confusion → Your narrative mentions your grandfather serving in both WWII and the Iraq War, which creates confusion. Also, the switch between past memories and war service needs smoother transitions.

My grandfather, a proud Australian soldier who served in World War II, was more than just a war hero - he was my closest friend. Before he left for his final deployment, we spent countless happy hours flying homemade kites and controlling toy planes in the park.

■ Your narrative has a touching personal core about family bonds and memories. The attic setting works well as a place of discovery, but you could make the story stronger by adding more details about how things look, feel, and smell. Also, you could slow down important moments to help readers feel more connected to your experience. Try expanding the description of finding the photograph and your emotional reaction. Additionally, you could build up the childhood memories more fully before mentioning the sadder parts about the war. Your ending is moving, but you could make it even better by sharing more about what these memories mean to you now.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

When I climbed up the creaky stairs to the attic, I wondered what secrets and ancient items would be hidden in there. The old attic hadn't seen daylight for many decades as no one had the time to explore this part of the house. One Sunday afternoon I was bored and thought I could explore and potentially unlock some hidden secrets. #1

~~A wave of dust appeared in front of me.~~ [A cloud of dust swirled in front of me.] I waited for it to settle before walking into the dark room. To brighten up the area, I opened the window at the back to let some light in. I could see cobwebs surrounding me and a large bookshelf next to the window. ~~The room smelt like mould~~ [The room smelt of mould] since no one had cleaned this place for years.

~~There was one book that intrigued me the most~~ [One book intrigued me more than the others], a bright orange cover located at the top of the shelf. As I took it out of its old home, a photograph from the ancient book ~~revealing~~ [revealed] a face that I haven't seen for years and memories I have forgotten. #2

~~I slowly picked up the photo and realised what it was.~~ [I gently lifted the photo, memories flooding back as I gazed at it.] A young, brave soldier who represented Australia in ~~war~~ World War II [World War II]. My grandpa was a kind and caring person who passed away during the Iraq war. He tried his very best but never got to celebrate the success of our victory. #3

My grandfather used to play with me when I was a little girl. We would fly our handmade kites in the park and control the toy plane with the remote. Those are all precious memories to me. Until he was ordered to serve in war, we had a great lifetime together.

Tears formed in my eyes and the transparent droplets fell on the edge of the photograph. I wiped my tears away and dried the photo with my t-shirt so it could be returned ~~it~~ into the book back in its little socket for a long, long time.