

Section 1:

#1 "The wind howled through the gaps of the old, rundown house, carrying the scent of soil and dust. It was years since Emily had laid eyes on the property. As she ran her hand down the wood railing, a shiver went through her. The past, she thought, was always one to stay."

Strengths: Your opening creates a strong atmosphere with sensory details. You effectively introduce the character's emotional connection to the setting.

Weakness: Confusing phrase → In the last sentence, "the past was always one to stay" is unclear. The meaning gets lost and doesn't flow naturally with the rest of your paragraph. The phrase doesn't clearly tell the reader what you mean about Emily's relationship with her past.

Exemplar: ***The past, she thought, had a stubborn way of lingering despite her best efforts to leave it behind.***

#2 "Nevertheless, as she entered deeper into the house, she was attracted by a paining, unwilling force that drew her toward the reminiscences that she had long tried to foresee but never evaded."

Strengths: You're building tension as Emily moves through the house. The idea of being pulled by an unseen force adds mystery.

Exemplar: ***Nevertheless, as she entered deeper into the house, she felt drawn by an unwilling force pulling her toward memories she had long tried to avoid but never escaped.***

#3 "The groan of a door interrupted her daydream. She turned to find facing her a face she had not looked upon in over ten years. Her father. He stood before her, as if he had never left, his eyes dark and distant. "You think you can hide from it?" he snarled, his voice gruff but welcome."

Strengths: You create a dramatic moment with the unexpected appearance of her father. The brief sentence "Her father." effectively builds tension.

Weakness: Contradictory description → You describe the father's voice as "gruff but welcome." This is confusing because he's "snarling" and his eyes are "dark and distant," which suggests hostility. The welcome aspect contradicts the threatening tone established by the rest of the description.

Exemplar: ***"You think you can hide from it?" he snarled, his voice gruff yet painfully familiar.***

→ Your narrative has a compelling premise about confronting one's past. The atmosphere you've created is eerie and effective for a ghost story or psychological drama. However, the story needs clearer descriptions that match the emotional tone you're trying to establish.

You can improve your writing by making sure your word choices precisely match what you're trying to say. When describing people's feelings or actions, think about whether the words contradict each other. Also, make your characters' relationships clearer so readers understand why Emily left and what she fears about returning.

Additionally, the mysterious elements need better explanation. Is her father really there or is he a ghost? Why does Emily feel guilty? Giving small hints throughout would help readers understand the story better without telling them everything at once.

■ Your piece shows promise with its haunting atmosphere and the theme of confronting one's past. The setting of an old house works well as a physical representation of memories. To improve, focus on making your metaphors more consistent. The clock as a symbol of time and the past is effective, but could be developed further. Also, consider whether your story is supernatural or psychological - the father's appearance needs clarity about whether he's real, a ghost, or a hallucination. The emotional journey of Emily needs stronger development to help readers connect with her struggles. Try making your sentences clearer while keeping the mysterious mood you've created.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2:

The wind howled through the gaps of the old, rundown house, carrying the scent of soil and dust. It was years since Emily had laid eyes on the property. As she ran her hand down the wood railing, a shiver went through her. ~~The past, she thought, was always one to stay.~~ [The past, she thought, had a stubborn way of lingering despite her best efforts to leave it behind.] #1

Her mother's words echoed in her mind as she walked along the empty halls. "This house is a reflection of our family's history, a place where the past is always alive." The old photographs on the walls seemed to watch her, minutes in the past which no longer belonged to her. ~~Nevertheless, as she entered deeper into the house, she was attracted by a paining, unwilling force that drew her toward the reminiscences that she had long tried to foresee but never evaded.~~ [Nevertheless, as she entered deeper into the house, she felt drawn by an unwilling force pulling her toward memories she had long tried to avoid but never escaped.] #2

She halted in the living room in front of the old grandfather clock, which was cracked but still ticking. Time had not been good to the clock, but it continued ticking away nonetheless, a reminder that no matter how much you tried to leave the past behind, somehow it always seemed to stick with you. The hands were at midnight. A new day, but the same familiar pattern. The thought struck her like a bell clanging in her brain. "You can never quite leave it behind," she whispered aloud, not sure if she was talking to the house or to herself.

The memories flooded back then her father, his peculiar ways, his hurtful words that he would distort in fights. The cold nights that seemed to last forever. She had fled, run to the city where time went fast, where no one asked anything about what she had left behind. But now, standing in the house, she recognized the past had been pursuing her, waiting patiently for her to try and escape, following her steps quietly. It was not just the creaky walls or the faded wallpaper. It was her choices, her remorse, her bitter guilt. ~~The groan of a door interrupted her daydream. She turned to find facing her a face she had not looked upon in over ten years.~~ [The groan of a door interrupted her daydream. She turned and found herself facing a man she had not looked upon in over ten years.]

Her father. He stood before her, as if he had never left, his eyes dark and distant. ~~"You think you can hide from it?" he snarled, his voice gruff but welcome.~~ ["You think you can hide from it?" he snarled, his voice gruff yet painfully familiar.] #3 The air in the room became thick, the past weighing on her like a boulder. "I didn't come back for you," she said softly, almost to herself. But he said nothing. He turned and disappeared into the blackness of the house. The door closed behind, a slow creaking slowness that startled her. Emily stood frozen, unsure if she should follow or leave.

The clock continued ticking. Time passed, relentless in its duration, indifferent to her struggle, to the history that had clung to her, as it had clung to this home for decades. The question hung in the balance. Could she ever truly move on from the weight of her past, or would she have to bear it for the rest of her days?