

Section 1

#1 "7-year-old Zack Miles recently went for a bushwalking with his mother, giggling and twirling as he reached the Silverwater Creek. Hours after the incident, his laughter faded as angry obnoxious ruby red constellations on his arms and legs that had beforehand plunged into the hazardous creek."

Strengths: ■ Your opening effectively introduces a child character to create emotional impact ■ You use vivid sensory details to contrast Zack's initial joy with his later suffering

Weaknesses: Sentence structure → Your opening paragraph contains a run-on sentence with confusing phrasing. The description of "angry obnoxious ruby red constellations" is creative but the sentence structure makes it hard to follow what happened to Zack. The phrase "that had beforehand plunged" is unclear about what exactly plunged into the creek.

Exemplar: *Zack Miles, a 7-year-old boy, recently went bushwalking with his mother, giggling and twirling as he reached Silverwater Creek. Hours after splashing in the water, his laughter faded as angry, ruby-red rashes appeared on his arms and legs that had been submerged in the hazardous creek.*

#2 "The once-idyllic creek has turned into a horror swamp. The radiant sunrays that once glimmered onto the surface of the creek, sprinkling glitter onto the wavy sapphire mess, now die of melancholy as shadows lurk around, covering the lake."

Strengths: ■ Your contrast between past beauty and present horror creates a powerful image ■ You use creative personification when describing the sunrays that "die of melancholy"

Weaknesses: Consistent terms → You switch between calling the water body a "creek" and a "lake" in the same sentence, which creates confusion for your readers. This inconsistency appears throughout your article and makes it difficult to understand exactly what type of water body Silverwater is.

Exemplar: *The once-idyllic creek has turned into a horror swamp. The radiant sunrays that once glimmered on the surface of the creek, sprinkling glitter onto the wavy sapphire waters, now seem to die of melancholy as shadows lurk around, covering the once-beautiful stream.*

#3 "Protestors yell as police push them back, holding signs that read: 'POLLUTION MONSTROSITIES SHOULD NOT LAY IN OUR DEFENSELESS WATERS!' and 'LAKES SHOULD NOT BE THE VICTIMS OF OUR FAULTS!'"

Strengths: ■ Your inclusion of protest signs adds a human element to the environmental disaster ■ You effectively show community response and outrage to the pollution

Weaknesses: Unclear action attribution → In this sentence, it's unclear who is "holding signs" - the police or the protesters. This creates confusion for your readers about what's happening in the scene. Also, the second protest sign mentions "lakes" while earlier you were describing a creek.

Exemplar: *Protestors, holding signs that read 'POLLUTION MONSTROSITIES SHOULD NOT LAY IN OUR DEFENSELESS WATERS!' and 'CREEKS SHOULD NOT BE THE VICTIMS OF OUR FAULTS!', yell as police push them back from the contaminated area.*

■ Your feature article has a strong emotional core with Zack's story, which makes readers care about the environmental issue. However, your writing would benefit from more details about how the pollution affects the wider community beyond just Zack. Also, while your descriptions of the creek are vivid, you could connect the imagery more directly to the dangers of pollution. Try adding a short paragraph about what the creek looked like before the pollution to create a stronger contrast. Additionally, your article starts strong but ends suddenly - consider adding a concluding paragraph that looks toward the future or offers hope for restoration. You could also improve your writing by maintaining consistency in terms (creek vs. lake) and by ensuring that your sentences clearly show who is doing what action. Remember that feature articles need to tell a complete story with a beginning that hooks readers, a middle that develops the issue, and an ending that leaves readers with something to think about.

Overall Score: 39/50

Section 2

A Creek's Cry: How Pollution Changed Silverwater Forever

~~#1 7-year-old Zack Miles recently went for a bushwalking with his mother, giggling and twirling as he reached the Silverwater Creek. Hours after the incident, his laughter faded as angry obnoxious ruby red constellations on his arms and legs that had beforehand plunged into the hazardous creek.~~ [7-year-old Zack Miles recently went bushwalking with his mother, giggling and twirling as he reached the Silverwater Creek. Hours after the incident, his laughter faded as angry, obnoxious ruby red rashes appeared on his arms and legs that had plunged into the hazardous creek.] Expert in Aquatic Environmental Science and Pollution Control, Dr Simmons concluded that the Silverwater Creek had immense amounts of asbestos and benzene, chemicals that severely increase cancer possibilities to humans. The creek poses a petrifying threat to children who may view the lake [the creek] as an appealing cerulean blue dreamworld.

Those who plunge ~~unknown~~ [unaware] by the dangers that lurk near them have itchy symptoms where bare skin has been drenched; such as harsh rashes, hives, and skin peeling.

Pollution has engulfed ~~the lake~~ [the creek] after a broken sewer pipe exploded near the creek, forcing a flood of chemicals to spread quickly, turning the once-azure blue haven into a steaming, grotesque, gravel-grey demon's playground. Silverwater Hospital, flooded with intoxicated people from ~~the lake~~ [the creek], commands all neighbours of ~~the lake~~ [the creek] to take precaution whilst outside due to rising health concerns and toxic exposure risks. #2 ~~The once idyllic creek has turned into a horror swamp. The radiant sunrays that once glimmered onto the surface of the creek, sprinkling glitter onto the wavy sapphire mess, now die of melancholy as shadows lurk around, covering the lake.~~ [The once-idyllic creek has turned into a horror swamp. The radiant sunrays that once glimmered on the surface of the creek, sprinkling glitter onto the wavy sapphire waters, now die of melancholy as shadows lurk around, covering the creek.]

This morning, hazmat teams in full gear began testing the toxic waters, working frantically to contain the damage before it spreads further. Temporary fences barricade the monster from children who are easily lured by sparkly sights. Drones of news agencies whirl as they surround the scene, ~~holding~~ [capturing images of] containers of the lethal lurid liquid. #3 ~~Protestors yell as police push them back, holding signs that read: "POLLUTION MONSTROSITIES SHOULD NOT LAY IN OUR DEFENSELESS WATERS!" and "LAKES SHOULD NOT BE THE VICTIMS OF OUR FAULTS!"~~ [Protestors, holding signs that read: "POLLUTION MONSTROSITIES SHOULD NOT LAY IN OUR DEFENSELESS WATERS!" and "CREEKS SHOULD NOT BE THE VICTIMS OF OUR FAULTS!", yell as police push them back.]