

## **Section 1:**

### **#1: Opening Paragraph**

#### **Strengths:**

- Your vibrant word choices like "clambered" and "flopped" create a vivid mental image
- You effectively establish Avery's positive mood at the beginning

**Weakness:** Limited sensory engagement → While you've described visual elements with "suns bright rays," your opening lacks engagement with multiple senses to fully immerse readers in Avery's morning experience.

**Exemplar:** *"Avery clambered out of bed, her blanket flopped over the side. She wore a huge smile, so happy that her optimism could be felt miles away. The warm sunlight caressed her skin as she opened her curtains with a flourish, bringing with it the distant hum of the waking city below."*

### **#2: Shadow Movement**

#### **Strengths:**

- Your creative comparison "bounding like a kangaroo" effectively portrays unusual movement
- The shadow's return to normal position creates a moment of doubt that builds tension

**Weakness:** Underdeveloped character reaction → You've shown Avery's physical response ("stood as still as a statue") but missed the opportunity to explore her thoughts or emotional reaction to this supernatural event. This pivotal moment deserves more internal reflection.

**Exemplar:** *"A flickering shadow swept across the wall, bounding like a kangaroo. It took Avery a moment to process that it was not in line with her body. At the same time, her shadow seemed to have the same thought, returning to the position that it was*

*meant to be in. Avery stood as still as a statue, her heart racing. Was she seeing things? The idea that her shadow had moved independently made her stomach tighten with unease."*

### #3: Conclusion

#### Strengths:

- Your concept of a mutual relationship between Avery and her shadow is innovative
- The final line adds a touch of dark humour to the piece

**Weakness:** Rushed resolution → The ending feels abrupt and leaves too many questions unanswered. The relationship between Avery and her shadow isn't fully explored, and the parenthetical "unanimous decision" feels disconnected from the narrative flow.

**Exemplar:** *"Whenever she left the house, Avery carefully checked if her shadow was following. On days when it refused to move, she stayed home with it instead. The arrangement drove Avery to the edge of sanity at times, but she had learned to respect its wishes. After all, they had reached a unanimous decision—her physical wellbeing depended on keeping her shadow satisfied."*

■ Your piece shows creativity in exploring the concept of a sentient shadow. The premise is intriguing, but needs more development in several areas. You could strengthen the middle section where Avery first experiences physical symptoms by creating a clearer link between her separation from the shadow and her physical decline. Also, consider exploring how this strange relationship affects Avery's daily life and mental state. The shadow itself needs more personality—does it communicate with Avery somehow? What are its motives? Additionally, the transitions between paragraphs could be smoother to help the reader follow the progression of events. Try focusing on paragraph five, where Avery collapses, to add more sensory details about her pain and confusion. You might also expand the final paragraph to show specific examples of how Avery and her shadow negotiate their unusual relationship.

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**Overall score: 41/50**

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## Section 2:

### The Vanishing Shadow

Avery clambered out of bed, her blanket flopped over the side. She wore a huge smile, so happy that her optimism could be felt miles away. She basked in the ~~suns~~ [sun's] bright rays, as she opened her curtains with a flourish.

Avery scanned the horizon, eyeing the waking city from the top floor of her apartment. The sleeping city looked serene and still, but many were starting to ~~stirr~~ [stir]. With her face pressed against the window, her breath staining the glass, she caught a glimpse of movement. Avery turned slowly, ~~as cautious when entering~~ [as cautiously as one entering] a bear's den.

#2: A ~~flickering~~ [flickering] shadow swept across the wall, bounding like a kangaroo. It took Avery a moment to process that it was not in line with her body. At the same time, her shadow seemed to have the same thought, returning to the position that it was meant to be in. Avery stood as still as a statue, still shocked from what she experienced just before.

Closing her eyes, ~~se~~ [she] replayed the scene in her head. ~~Surely~~ [Surely] it was her mind playing tricks on her... Avery knew that was the only reasonable answer. What she didn't know was that her shadow started moving as soon as she stepped out of her room.

Entering the picturesque kitchen for some water, Avery felt a sudden stab at her heart. She felt as if she was split in half, separated from her vital organs. Avery's face turned as white as a sheet, her hands now clammy and cold. Then she crumpled to the floor.

On her hands and knees, Avery hoisted ~~hersef~~ [herself] to a ~~crawling~~ [crawling] position. She moved slowly, dragging each limb like it was as heavy as a barbell. Nudging open the door to her bedroom, a wave of realisation hit her.

The closer she got to her ~~shadow~~ [shadow], the more energy she regained. Without her shadow, Avery wasn't complete. Without ~~every of her part~~ [every part of her] together, Avery wasn't herself. And she never ~~forgot~~ [forgot] that from that day on.

#3: When she left the house, she checked if her shadow was following. And if not, she stayed home with it instead. It drove Avery crazy, but she had to respect ~~it's~~ [its] wishes. (It was ~~an~~ [a] unanimous decision).