

### Section 1:

#1

#### Strengths:

- Your introduction effectively establishes the unusual phenomenon with vivid descriptions of the shadow moving independently.
- Good use of emotional reactions ("my jaw dropped", "Panic started flooding") to convey the narrator's surprise.

**Weakness:** Inconsistent pacing and overuse of punctuation → Your opening scene moves from peaceful morning to shocking discovery very quickly, with multiple exclamation points, ellipses, and comma splices that disrupt the flow. For example, in "but it was, surprisingly, not there, but in fact at the other side of my bedroom!" you use multiple commas and "but" twice, which creates a choppy rhythm. The abrupt pace doesn't allow for the full build-up of tension that would make the shadow's independence more impactful.

**Exemplar:** *I looked down, expecting to see my copycat shadow mirroring my movements as usual, but found the floor bare. A flicker of movement caught my eye—impossibly, my shadow was exploring the far corner of my bedroom, completely detached from me.*

#2

#### Strengths:

- Creative incorporation of sign language as a communication method with a sensible backstory (deaf sister).
- Effective use of short sentences ("The rustling noises... The open windows...") to show the narrator's realisation.

**Weakness:** Underdeveloped foreshadowing → The shadow's knowledge of the earthquake and the narrator's quick acceptance lack sufficient groundwork. The

explanation about "rustling noises" and "leaping sounds" is introduced suddenly without previous mentions, making it feel like a convenient solution rather than carefully planted clues. The question mark after the shadow's message also creates confusion about whether this is dialogue or the narrator's thoughts.

**Exemplar:** *The shadow's urgent gestures formed clear words: 'CITY IN GREAT DANGER. EARTHQUAKE COMING. MANY WILL DIE WITHOUT HELP.' I should have been sceptical, but suddenly all the strange occurrences of the past week made sense—the subtle tremors I'd dismissed, the rustling noises as my shadow had apparently been venturing out at night, gathering information.*

#3

#### **Strengths:**

- Engaging action sequence with both the narrator and shadow working as a team.
- Good emotional payoff with the grateful parents and the shadow getting recognition.

**Weakness:** Rushed resolution and logical gaps → Your action scene contains several issues with consistency and punctuation. The use of colons is incorrect in phrases like "I worried that some people may not survive : especially down on the ground". Additionally, the catastrophic scenario of a baby and elderly man falling simultaneously from a skyscraper feels contrived and resolved too easily, without addressing how the shadow physically caught someone.

**Exemplar:** *As we approached the city centre, the tremors intensified. Buildings swayed dangerously, glass shattered from windows, and the streets had become chaos. Then I spotted the true horror—a toddler dangling from a fire escape whilst an elderly man lost his footing on a crumbling balcony across the street. With only seconds to act, I locked eyes with my shadow, who nodded in understanding and swooped towards the man as I sprinted towards the child.*

■ Your creative story shows imagination and enthusiasm with an intriguing premise about a shadow gaining independence. The concept has great potential, but the execution could benefit from more careful development. Your pacing varies inconsistently—rushing through important moments while repeating information about the earthquake's strength. Consider deepening the relationship between the narrator and shadow gradually, allowing readers to feel invested in their partnership. Also, you could strengthen the logic behind

the shadow's knowledge and abilities to make the fantasy more believable. Try varying your sentence structures more deliberately, using shorter sentences for impact and longer ones for description. Additionally, the ending feels abrupt; you might consider showing how this experience permanently changes their relationship rather than stating it directly. Remember to use punctuation marks consistently and correctly, particularly colons and semicolons.

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**Overall Score: 42/50**

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## Section 2:

As I woke up, I stretched lazily, finally forcing myself to get up and open the curtains. I looked down, expecting to see my copycat shadow, but it was, surprisingly, not there, but in fact at the other side of my bedroom! As I watched it scurry across my bedroom curiously, looking into every nook and tucked-away corner, my jaw dropped. How was... surely not... this couldn't be real! Panic started flooding through my veins as I watched it not mimic but tear away from me and ~~doing~~ [do] whatever it pleased. #1 As my anxiety turned into indignation, I cried 'Hey! Get back here!' . My shadow looked at me with a startled expression, and then started waving its hands around, gesturing frantically. My initial response was to act tough, reply with a flare of annoyance. However, another half of me, a sympathetic one, wanted to help it. That side won. I took a deep breath and released it. It felt good ÷ [,] like releasing my anger. 'Okay. You obviously have something you want to tell me. Correct?' I asked my shadow, who nodded furiously. Okay, we needed a way to communicate... suddenly, I got an idea so bright that it could light up the whole town. Sign language, I explained to my shadow, asking if it knew it. It hesitated, then nodded. I knew it too, from my deaf little sister. Having her around meant sign language was the only way to talk to her.

My shadow started performing a series of signs, impressing me. Maybe shadows weren't just annoying little copycats after all, I mused. But... the signs said... 'CITY IN GREAT DANGER. EARTHQUAKE EARTHQUAKE DEATH DEATH WE NEED HELP.' ? That was... quite unsettling. But... how did my shadow know? Then a solution came to me, fast as a lightning bolt. The rustling noises in my bedroom at night. The open windows. The leaping sounds. It all made sense now. 'Okay,' I said to my shadow. #2

'Let's go be heroes. Together!' I crowed proudly. The shadow put on a brave expression and struck a heroic pose. We could do this. We had to... for the sake of the city.

As soon as my car got close to the city, I could already feel the tremors. They were not too strong, but I worried that some people may not survive ÷ [,] especially down on the ground. Even though they were not too strong, they were already causing some damage. I saw cars with broken windshields and houses with no doors and skyscrapers with no windows. But I saw a disaster ÷ [—] a baby from the top of a skyscraper had fallen, but so had an elderly man! I couldn't help both of them... but then, my shadow appeared, preparing to catch the man. I nodded, and dashed like a bullet to the position of the baby. Swoosh... thunk! I landed in a heap, the baby crawling on me. I laughed. Suddenly, two frantic parents came rushing over. They thanked me for about 5 minutes for saving their child. 'It's ok, that's what heroes do,' I smiled. My shadow was getting even more attention! After an hour of interviews, we headed home. I grinned at my shadow, which grinned back. Maybe shadows don't always need to copy you, but help you! #3