

Section 1:

#1: "One day, Mark, a 12-year-old-kid, was waking up from a wonderful sleep at dawn. He got up from his bed and did some stretches. He watched out into the fresh morning sun and suddenly a thought crossed his mind. The sun caused shadows, and when he thought of that, it led him to more thoughts."

Strengths: Your opening establishes the main character clearly with his age and morning routine. The writing flows naturally and creates a peaceful morning scene.

Weakness: Prompt Mismatch → Your opening doesn't establish a hero on a quest or indicate any goal, which was specifically requested in the prompt. The morning scene, while pleasantly written, doesn't signal to readers that this is a quest narrative. The phrase "led him to more thoughts" is vague and doesn't build anticipation for a specific adventure.

Perhaps Mark awoke with determination, his mind already focused on the mysterious shadow phenomena that had been terrorising the neighbourhood for weeks.

#2: "He did something crazy – he said hi to his own shadow! But what he did was as normal as breathing in air compared to what happened next. His shadow waved back at him! Mark thought he was going crazy."

Strengths: Your use of contrast between "crazy" and "normal as breathing" effectively builds tension. The shadow waving back creates an interesting supernatural element with good surprise value.

Weakness: Underdeveloped Conflict → While the shadow coming to life is intriguing, it doesn't connect to a larger quest or hero's journey. The conflict feels accidental rather than part of a purposeful adventure. Mark's reaction shows surprise but not heroic determination. The phrases "did something crazy" and "thought he was going crazy" reveal Mark as a passive character rather than a hero actively pursuing a goal.

Mark gasped as his shadow waved back, but quickly gathered his courage. "This must be connected to the shadow creatures that have been frightening everyone," he whispered, remembering his promise to discover their source.

#3: "Mark was as shocked as electricity. Suddenly, the shadow moved around the room, and then a speech bubble popped up next to it! The speech bubble read: Your parents are calling you for breakfast. Mark ripped the door of its hinges and ran straight out of his bedroom."

Strengths: Your creative use of the speech bubble adds a unique, almost comic-book quality to the story. The energetic description of Mark's reaction shows his emotional state effectively.

Weakness: Plot Direction → The story shifts from a potentially mysterious encounter to an ordinary breakfast call, undermining any sense of quest or adventure. The shadow's mundane message deflates tension rather than advancing a heroic journey. The phrase "ripped the door of its hinges" suggests fear rather than heroic courage, and running away doesn't align with facing challenges on a quest.

Though startled, Mark took a deep breath and approached the shadow cautiously. "Who are you? What do you want?" he demanded, remembering the three questions from his grandfather's book about confronting shadow beings. This was his first real test on the path to becoming a Shadow Guardian.

Your writing shows creativity with the animated shadow concept, but it doesn't fully address the prompt requirements. The piece lacks a clear hero's journey structure—there's no established goal for Mark beyond reacting to the strange shadow, and he doesn't actively overcome hurdles. The story ends with Mark running away rather than pursuing a quest.

Also, consider developing Mark's character as more heroic by giving him courage, determination or special knowledge that would help him face the shadow phenomenon. Currently, he reacts with shock and fear rather than resolve. Additionally, you might introduce stakes—what would happen if Mark doesn't complete his quest? Who or what depends on his success?

You could strengthen your story by establishing Mark's goal early (perhaps he's been chosen to communicate with shadows for some important purpose), creating meaningful obstacles (maybe some shadows are hostile or misleading), and showing his growth as he

overcomes these challenges. This would transform your interesting shadow encounter into a true hero's quest narrative.

Overall Score: 37/50

Section 2:

One day, Mark, a 12-year-old-kid, was waking up from a wonderful sleep at dawn. He got up from his bed and did some stretches. He watched ~~out~~ [out of his window] into the fresh morning sun and suddenly a thought crossed his mind. The sun caused shadows, and when he thought of that, it led him to more thoughts. That happened until he thought about his shadow. He was bored because ~~hadn't~~ [he hadn't] done anything fun for seven months! #1 He did something crazy – he said hi to his own shadow! But what he did was as normal as breathing in air compared to what happened next. His shadow waved back at him! Mark thought he was going crazy. Suddenly he thought of his favourite comic book, and thought the shadow was about to open up the ground! So, he quickly stepped back and looked away. But then he realised it was just a shadow. So, he got ready to do his homework, and then realised his shadow stayed where it was! It didn't even follow him! #2 Mark was as shocked as electricity. Suddenly, the shadow moved around the room, and then a speech bubble popped up next to it! The speech bubble read: Your parents are calling you for breakfast. Mark ripped the door ~~of~~ [off] its hinges and ran straight out of his bedroom. #3 Could Mum know about this enigmatic shadow? ~~considered~~ [Mark considered]. Maybe I should just forget this mystery. After all, all the shadow was trying to do was tell me it was time for breakfast! All that effort for nothing...