

Section 1:

#1 - Opening sequence: "The luminescent golden ray of light interrupted the pitch black sky. Tom yawned and gazed out the window only to find a shadow, not any shadow, his shadow sitting on the ledge of the window!"

Strengths:

- Creative imagery with "luminescent golden ray" creates a vivid morning scene
- Effective surprise element with the shadow reveal

Weakness: Sudden transition → Your opening shifts too abruptly from the descriptive scene to dialogue without proper setup. The transition from Tom's shock to the shadow's casual comment feels jarring, and you don't give readers enough time to process this unusual situation.

Exemplar: *"Tom's heart raced as he stared at the impossible sight. The shadow wiggled its fingers mockingly before speaking in a voice that seemed to come from everywhere and nowhere at once."*

#2 - School bullying scene: "Then the bullies came up and say: 'Huh your shadow is. As weird as you!' exclaimed the bully until the shadow punched him and screamed some rude words at him and finished him off with a push."

Strengths:

- Clear conflict resolution showing the shadow's protective nature
- Good character development for the shadow

Weakness: Incomplete action description → Your description of the confrontation lacks emotional depth and specific details. The sequence feels rushed, and readers don't get a clear picture of how the shadow physically interacts with the bully or the impact of this supernatural event on Tom's character development.

Exemplar: *"The shadow's form solidified momentarily as it delivered a precise blow, sending the bully sprawling. Tom watched in amazement as his once-helpless tormentor fled, realising that everything had just changed."*

#3 - Dream revelation ending: "Tom jolted awake from his alarm and stared out the window and saw the sunny meadow before him. Then he glanced at his shadow and who could have sworn waved at him."

Strengths:

- Clever twist that leaves readers questioning reality
- Ambiguous ending creates intrigue

Weakness: Grammatical confusion → Your final sentence contains a grammatical error that disrupts the flow, and the transition from dream to reality feels too abrupt. The emotional impact of Tom realising it was a dream is completely missing, which weakens the story's conclusion.

Exemplar: *"As Tom's eyes adjusted to the morning light, he turned to check his shadow on the wall beside him. For the briefest moment, he could have sworn it gave him a small, knowing wave."*

Overall comments:

Your piece demonstrates creativity and an engaging premise, but it needs stronger development in several areas. The dialogue feels natural and adds personality to the shadow character, which is a significant strength. However, your transitions between scenes need improvement, particularly when moving from action to dialogue. You should develop your characters' emotional responses more thoroughly, especially Tom's reactions to these extraordinary events. Additionally, expanding on descriptive details would help readers visualise the scenes more clearly. Consider adding more sensory details to make the magical realism more believable. Also, work on varying your sentence structure to create better rhythm throughout the story. Your ending twist is clever, but it needs a smoother transition to make the revelation more impactful. Finally, proofreading for grammatical errors would polish your work significantly.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2:

The Day a Shadow came to life

The luminescent golden ray of light interrupted the pitch black sky. Tom yawned and gazed out the window only to find a shadow, not any shadow, his shadow sitting on the ledge of the window! Tom opened his mouth to scream until the shadow somehow said:

"About time you woke up! I thought you were in a deep sleep for a hundred years, just like Sleeping Beauty!"

Tom's eyes enlarged and his mouth gaped.

"What? Cat got your tongue?" the shadow mocked.

"I um ~~no. But~~ [no, but] how a-are you a-a-alive? Am I delusional right now or am I still dreaming?" stuttered Tom.

"Does it look like you are dreaming or delusional? No, I am here right now talking to you [,]" replied the shadow as it folded its arms. ~~Then Thomas, not acknowledging the shadow's existence shakes his head and starts to pack his things for school.~~ [Then Thomas, not acknowledging the shadow's existence, shook his head and started to pack his things for school.] He ~~ignores~~ [ignored] the ~~shadows~~ [shadow's] yowling and ~~plods~~ [plodded] to school with his shadow trailing behind him. Everywhere he went people stared at his shadow wondering ~~what in the world?~~ [what on earth was happening?] When Tom arrived at school he started to hear people whispering about his shadow which didn't copy what Tom was doing [but] instead ~~doing~~ [did] the opposite. ~~Then the bullies came up and say:~~ [Then the bullies came up and said:]

"Huh your shadow is [,] As weird as you!" exclaimed the bully until the shadow punched him and screamed some rude words at him and finished him off with a push. The bully scrambled to his feet and bolted to the classroom screeching:

"I WANT MY MUMMY WAHHHH!"

Tom then glanced at the shadow with new eyes and thanked him fiercely.

~~Everyday~~ [Every day] after that they all knew not to disrespect Tom or they would face the consequences.

Or will they?

Tom jolted awake from his alarm and stared out the window and saw the sunny meadow before him. Then he glanced at his shadow and ~~who~~ [he] could have sworn ~~waved~~ [it waved] at him.

#1 The luminescent golden ray of light interrupted the pitch black sky. Tom yawned and gazed out the window only to find a shadow, not any shadow, his shadow sitting on the ledge of the window!

#2 "Then the bullies came up and said: 'Huh, your shadow is as weird as you!' exclaimed the bully until the shadow punched him and screamed some rude words at him and finished him off with a push."

#3 Tom jolted awake from his alarm and stared out the window and saw the sunny meadow before him. Then he glanced at his shadow and he could have sworn it waved at him.