

Section 1:

#1 (Opening paragraph - "As I peered into the ancient mirror...")

Strengths: Your opening creates a strong mysterious mood that draws readers in. The description of the mirror with "blackened ivy and tarnished silver" helps readers picture the scene clearly.

Weakness: Sentence structure confusion → Your opening sentence has grammar problems that make it hard to follow. The phrase "a face stared back at me – one that was hauntingly familiar, yet utterly foreign" doesn't connect properly to the rest of the sentence structure.

Exemplar: *"As I peered into the ancient mirror, I saw a face staring back at me—one that was hauntingly familiar, yet utterly foreign."*

#2 (Flashback section - "Then, the stare took me back 15 years...")

Strengths: Your use of a flashback adds depth to the story. The dialogue from the mysterious man creates tension and connects to the main plot.

Weakness: Unclear timeline jumps → The transition from the mirror scene to the flashback is confusing. You write "when I was just born" but then describe sitting in your mum's lap and remembering details, which doesn't make sense for a newborn baby.

Exemplar: *"Then, the stare took me back 15 years to when I was just a toddler, sitting in my mum's lap."*

#3 (Ending section - "The last thing I saw before the darkness...")

Strengths: Your ending creates a good twist with the character swap. The final line "I was inside the mirror, and the world was out of reach" is powerful.

Weakness: Pronoun confusion → You switch between "he" and "she" when describing the mirror person, which confuses readers. In one sentence you write "He was moving" and then "Her lips slowly opened."

Exemplar: *"The face inside was no longer still. She was moving, and her lips slowly opened as she whispered: 'It's time.'"*

■ Your piece shows creativity and imagination in its supernatural story concept. The mirror as a portal between worlds is an interesting idea that you develop well. However, your writing would benefit from clearer sentence structure and better organisation of ideas. Focus on making sure each sentence flows smoothly to the next one. Also, check that your pronouns match throughout the story - if the mirror person is female, use "she" consistently. Additionally, work on making your timeline clearer so readers can follow when events happen. Your descriptions are quite good, but sometimes they get lost in confusing grammar. Try reading your work aloud to catch sentences that don't sound right. Finally, make sure your flashback connects more clearly to the present action.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2:

~~#1 As I peered into the ancient mirror, a face stared back at me—one that was hauntingly familiar, yet utterly foreign.~~ [As I peered into the ancient mirror, I saw a face staring back at me—one that was hauntingly familiar, yet utterly foreign.]

The glass was clouded with age, its frame a tangled mess of blackened ivy and tarnished silver. It stood in the attic of the old estate I had inherited, shrouded in a dust-laden tarp that had clearly not been disturbed in decades. Yet somehow, the mirror's surface shimmered like water, alive and beckoning.

~~The face that looked back bore my eyes wide, amber-flecked, and unmistakably mine, but the skin was paler, almost translucent.~~ [The face that looked back bore my eyes—wide, amber-flecked, and unmistakably mine—but the skin was paler, almost translucent.] The hair, while the same deep chestnut as my own, fell in waves with a refinement that didn't belong to this century. ~~And there was something in the expression, an air of sorrow laced with defiance, that had hold of my chest.~~ [There was something in the expression—an air of sorrow laced with defiance—that gripped my chest.] ~~An expression which only the heart can tell.~~ [It was an expression that only the heart could interpret.] ~~I felt that it wanted to rip my life out of my cold body.~~ [I felt as though it wanted to tear the life from my body.] The ~~concentration~~ [intensity] of the stare was unbearable. I wanted to look away but something stopped me, something deep inside of me, like a longing for the past. ~~Then, the stare took me back 15 years to when I was just born.~~ [Then, the stare took me back 15 years to when I was just a toddler.]

#2 I was sitting in my ~~mum's~~ [mother's] lap waiting for food when a stranger crept ~~in~~ [into] my house.

He wore a long, dark coat, soaked from the rain. His boots were muddy, and water dripped from the brim of his hat. My mother gasped and pulled me close. I didn't understand much then [—] I was just a ~~baby~~ [toddler] but I ~~remember~~ [remembered] the way her body tensed, the fear in her heartbeat.

The man looked at us, his face hidden in shadow. Then he said something I didn't understand at the time, but now, as I stared into the mirror, the words came back to me clearly:

"The child is marked. She'll return to her place in time."

And then he was gone.

My ~~mum~~ [mother] never spoke about that day. As I grew older, I sometimes thought I had dreamed it. But now, standing in the attic, staring into the mirror, I knew it had really happened. That man had known something. Something about me. About *this*.

#3 Suddenly, the mirror rippled again. The face inside was no longer still. ~~He was moving. Her lips slowly opened, and she whispered:~~ [She was moving. Her lips slowly opened, and she whispered:]

"It's time."

The attic around me darkened. The air became thick, like fog. I felt something tug at my chest, like invisible hands pulling me forward. My feet slid across the floor, and I couldn't stop them.

"No," I said, trying to pull away. But the mirror's pull was too strong.

The last thing I saw before the darkness swallowed me was the other me, the mirror me, stepping out into the attic, into my life.

Then everything went black.

When I opened my eyes, I was no longer in the attic.

I was inside the mirror, and the world was out of reach.