

## Section 1:

**#1: "Dark and icy, a strange figure towered over Luna, sending shivers down her spine. Thin and bony, its long fingers brushed her shoulder. "Hey!" Luna exclaimed. "Huh? I swear something was just touching me," she continued, "oh well," the short, 7 year old girl sighed, carrying on with her walk to school, as if nothing ever happened. But little did she know, something major was about to happen, something that would change the way she acted forever."**

Strengths: Your opening creates an excellent eerie atmosphere with vivid sensory details ("Dark and icy"). The mysterious figure immediately hooks the reader's attention.

Weakness: Underdeveloped character introduction → While you introduce Luna, we learn very little about her personality or character traits beyond her age. Phrases like "the short, 7 year old girl" and her casual dismissal of the strange occurrence don't give us enough insight into who she is as a person.

Exemplar: *Luna clutched her school bag tighter, her curious eyes scanning the empty street as she continued her journey, attempting to shake off the strange sensation—after all, an imaginative seven-year-old often saw things others didn't.*

**#2: "As Luna ran through the school gates to join in the game of "Tag," she noticed something extremely off. The scorching rays of the sun were burning her back mercilessly, yet her shadow was nowhere to be seen. Taking a glance at the people around her, she realized that she was the only one without a shadow. "Where is it?" Luna wondered. Suddenly, the lightbulb above her head lit up. Everything made sense."**

Strengths: Your reveal of the missing shadow is well-executed and provides an excellent central conflict. The contrast between the bright sun and missing shadow creates a powerful image.

Weakness: Rushed realization moment → Luna's epiphany happens too quickly. The phrase "Suddenly, the lightbulb above her head lit up. Everything made sense" doesn't allow readers to experience her thought process or the gradual building of her realization.

Exemplar: *Luna stared at the ground where her shadow should have been, her mind racing as the pieces slowly came together—the cold touch, the eerie presence, the sensation of being followed. "My shadow," she whispered, her eyes widening with understanding.*

**#3: "Her little legs started to whirl like a windmill, and in no time, Luna felt the cool air-conditioning from the library. The sweet aroma of freshly baked pastry wafted up her nostril, and Luna had the urge to slump in a rickety chair with an iced lemonade and mouth-watering chocolate cupcake. But she resisted that temptation."**

Strengths: Your sensory details in the library scene create a vivid environment. The description of temptation adds depth to Luna's determination.

Weakness: Disconnected sensory information → The details about pastries and lemonade, while vivid, distract from the urgent shadow problem rather than advancing the plot. These sensory elements don't connect meaningfully to Luna's quest to solve her shadow problem.

Exemplar: *Luna rushed into the library, barely noticing the cool air washing over her as her eyes scanned the towering bookshelves—somewhere in this vast collection of knowledge must be the answer to why her faithful shadow had abandoned her.*

■ Your piece features a wonderfully creative premise with the shadow abandoning its owner. The concept provides an excellent opportunity for a meaningful message about appreciation. However, your story would benefit from deeper character development for Luna. We need to understand more about her personality and typical behaviour to fully appreciate how this experience changes her. The pacing also feels rushed, particularly in how quickly Luna solves the mystery and in the conclusion where we don't actually see how she changes her behaviour toward her shadow. You could improve this by adding a scene showing Luna actively trying to win back her shadow's trust. Also, consider exploring Luna's emotional journey more thoroughly. How did she feel when she first realized her shadow was gone? Was she frightened, confused, or perhaps initially excited? Showing these emotions would strengthen the reader's connection with your character and deepen the impact of your story's message.

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## Section 2:

Dark and icy, a strange figure towered over Luna, sending shivers down her spine. Thin and bony, its long fingers brushed her shoulder. "Hey!" Luna exclaimed. "Huh? I swear something was just touching me," she continued, "oh well," the short, 7-year-old girl sighed, carrying on with her walk to school, as if nothing ever happened. But little did she know, something major was about to happen, something that would change the way she acted forever. #1

As Luna ran through the school gates to join in the game of "Tag," she noticed something extremely off. The scorching rays of the sun were burning her back mercilessly, yet her shadow was nowhere to be seen. Taking a glance at the people around her, she realized that she was the only one without a shadow. "Where is it?" Luna wondered. Suddenly, the lightbulb above her head lit up. Everything made sense. The ominous figure towering over her, the shivers down her spine, the icy hand on her shoulder, it all started to match up. All the strange incidents she faced that she thought were trivial suddenly had so much importance in her mind. But why were these things happening to Luna? #2

"The library!" Luna gasped. "Why didn't I think of it earlier?" ~~Scolding herself as she smacked her face.~~ [She scolded herself as she smacked her face.] Her little legs started to whirl like a windmill, and in no time, Luna felt the cool air-conditioning from the library. The sweet aroma of freshly baked pastry wafted up her nostril and Luna had the urge to slump in a rickety chair with an iced lemonade and mouth-watering chocolate cupcake. But she resisted that temptation. Huge, tall aisles of books stretched as far as Luna's bright blue eyes could see. "T, u, v, aha! W!" Whispered Luna. Her heart raced as she searched for the right book. Luna needed her shadow back immediately, even if it didn't help her. "Why is my shadow not following me? Yes!" Squealed Luna under her breath. "A shadow may betray its owner if overworked or lacking attention," read the book in shiny, gold writing. "Finally," Luna thought. Little did she know that from that day on, she would naturally treat her shadow in a different, much more appreciative way. #3