

#1 "It was a usual Friday morning when Emme woke up with the hot summer breeze from her open window. She got dressed and ate breakfast for school as always, but she felt that something was wrong, she felt different. Emme didn't think much because she would be late for school."

Strengths:

- Your opening effectively establishes the setting with sensory details like "hot summer breeze"
- The sense of routine followed by something unusual creates intrigue

Weakness: Missing connection between the feeling and the shadow discovery → Your first paragraph introduces the concept that something feels wrong, but you don't connect this intuition to the shadow's disappearance. The transition feels abrupt when readers suddenly learn about the missing shadow in the next paragraph. You're also missing opportunities to build tension by showing rather than telling what feels different about this particular morning.

Exemplar: *"As Emme dressed for school, she realised the morning light wasn't casting her usual shadow across the bedroom floor, though she couldn't quite put her finger on what felt different."*

#2 "At recess, Emme asked her shadow why it was running away when she remembered her shadow couldn't talk! She quickly grabbed a piece of paper and a pencil from her drawing kit(which she always brings with her). Emme gave the pencil and paper to it, and it wrote 'Follow me'. Emme did what it said, but she never expected to be out of school!"

Strengths:

- Your creative problem-solving with the shadow using a pencil to communicate shows imagination
- The surprise element of leaving school creates story momentum

Weakness: Unnatural character behaviour → Your character's reaction to her shadow writing feels too casual. When confronted with something supernatural, most people

would respond with more shock or questioning. The phrase "she never expected to be out of school" doesn't capture the gravity of following a sentient shadow off school premises, making the character seem unrealistically accepting of extraordinary events.

Exemplar: *"Emme stared at the message, her heart racing. 'This can't be real,' she whispered, but her curiosity overcame her fear as she tentatively followed her shadow towards the school gates."*

#3 "They soon entered a narrow walkway(about 20 cm)through buildings as she found her best friend, Lia, stuck in the gap between. 'Help!' Lia shouted. 'Don't worry, Lia, I'll help you!' replied Emme. But Emme was sideways, so she couldn't do much. Suddenly, she remembered something, her shadow could help! As they worked together, Lia soon returned to school with Emme, they were right on time for the class bell."

Strengths:

- Your resolution cleverly incorporates the shadow as a helpful character rather than a threat
- The rescue scene provides a satisfying purpose for the shadow's behaviour

Weakness: Rushed resolution and unclear logistics → Your explanation of how the shadow helps rescue Lia lacks specific details. The phrase "Emme was sideways, so she couldn't do much" doesn't clearly explain the physical constraints, and you don't show the actual rescue process. The solution feels too convenient and quick, missing opportunities to build tension and show creative problem-solving steps.

Exemplar: *"Emme squeezed herself into the alley, but her body blocked the narrow space. Then she noticed her shadow could stretch and flatten against the wall, creating just enough room to pull Lia through."*

Your piece shows creativity in exploring the concept of a misbehaving shadow, but you could strengthen the story by developing your ideas more thoroughly. You tend to summarise events rather than showing them happening, which makes some scenes feel rushed. For example, when Emme discovers her shadow's ability to write, you could expand on her amazement and confusion rather than moving quickly to the action. Additionally, your piece would benefit from more specific sensory details throughout. Instead of simply stating "they worked together," you could describe exactly how Emme and her shadow coordinate their movements. Your dialogue could also be enhanced by

adding more character emotion and realistic reactions. Consider developing Lia's rescue scene by showing step-by-step problem-solving rather than jumping to "Lia soon returned to school." Also, you could explore why the shadow behaved strangely in the first place, perhaps suggesting a deeper connection between Emme and her shadow that goes beyond mere warning.

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Section 2:

It was a usual Friday morning when Emme woke up with the hot summer breeze from her open window. She got dressed and ate breakfast for school as always, but she felt that something was wrong [;] she felt different. Emme didn't think much because she would be late for school.

As she sprinted to school, she looked down, expecting her shadow to be sprinting with her, but instead her shadow was gone. Emme looked around for her shadow. When she spotted it in front of her, she chased it all the way to school without hesitation. Emme was going to follow her shadow somewhere else when the bell rang. She had to go to class.

#2 At recess, Emme asked her shadow why it was running away when she remembered her shadow couldn't talk! She quickly grabbed a piece of paper and a pencil from her drawing kit (~~[which]~~~~(which she always brings with her)~~). Emme gave the pencil and paper to it, and it wrote 'Follow me'. Emme did what it said, but she never expected to be out of school!

They soon entered a narrow walkway about [(about 20 cm~~)~~through buildings as she found her best friend, Lia, stuck in the gap between.~~ 'Help!' Lia shouted. 'Don't worry, Lia, I'll help you!' replied Emme. [~~'Help!' Lia shouted. 'Don't worry, Lia, I'll help you!' replied Emme.~~] But Emme was sideways, so she couldn't do much. Suddenly, she remembered something, [;] her shadow could help! **#3** As they worked together, Lia soon returned to school with Emme [;] they were right on time for the class bell. 'Thanks a..;' [, ' before Emme could thank her shadow, it had already returned to being her shadow again. Emme then ~~realised~~ [realised] that her shadow wasn't being naughty but warning her of danger.