

## Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph: "Emma clutched her cup of coffee. Tighter. Tighter. She stared grimly at the letter..."

**Strengths:** Your opening creates immediate tension and uses short, punchy sentences to show Emma's emotional state. The repetition of "Tighter. Tighter" effectively conveys her growing anxiety.

**Weakness: Unclear Context** → The connection between the letter and her father's death isn't clearly established. You mention "the letter that had changed her life" but don't explain what the letter contains or how it relates to his passing, leaving readers confused about this important plot element.

**Exemplar:** *The solicitor's letter lay before her, confirming the funeral arrangements she'd been dreading.*

#2 - Middle section: "Emma took her seat. She tried to find the furthest seat at the back..."

**Strengths:** You capture Emma's desire to avoid attention and her internal conflict about giving the speech. The phrase "sweet, sickly speech" shows her mixed feelings about the formality of the occasion.

**Weakness: Sequence Confusion** → The order of events becomes muddled when Emma suddenly appears on stage after sitting at the back. You don't show how she moved from the audience to the podium, creating a jarring transition that disrupts the story's flow.

**Exemplar:** *Despite wanting to hide, Emma knew she had to honour her father by delivering the eulogy she'd prepared.*

#3 - Climax section: "Then, time seemed to freeze. Everything was still..."

**Strengths:** Your description of Emma's emotional breakthrough is touching, and the realisation that she needs to live fully captures the story's main message well.

**Weakness: Rushed Resolution** → Emma's transformation from deep grief to acceptance happens too quickly within a single moment. This important character change needs more development to feel believable and meaningful to readers.

**Exemplar:** *Gradually, as she spoke about her father's love, Emma began to understand that honouring his memory meant embracing life, not hiding from it.*

■ Your piece tackles the important theme of grief and healing, showing how funerals can help people process loss. The emotional journey from despair to acceptance resonates strongly, and your portrayal of Emma's pain feels genuine. However, your story would benefit from clearer connections between events and more gradual character development. The letter's significance needs explaining, and Emma's transformation requires more time to unfold naturally. Additionally, some sentences need smoother transitions to help readers follow the narrative flow. Consider expanding the middle section to show Emma's gradual shift in perspective rather than a sudden revelation. Also, strengthen the link between the letter and the funeral arrangements to provide clearer context for readers. Your ending message about living fully whilst grieving is powerful and would shine even brighter with these improvements.

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**Overall Score: 40/50**

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## Section 2:

#1 Emma clutched her cup of coffee. Tighter. Tighter. She stared grimly at the letter [—] ~~The~~ [the] letter that had changed her life. Ever since her father's passing, Emma hadn't eaten. She hadn't showered, and she had hardly moved at all. Tomorrow was the day of her ~~dad's~~ [father's] funeral, and she was NOT ready. She thought what a silly idea funerals were. Were they just to remind everyone about a loved one's passing and increase their sadness?

#2 Emma took her seat. She tried to find the furthest seat at the back, so she wouldn't have to keep enduring the pain. She could hardly ~~say~~ [deliver] her sweet, sickly speech without cringing.

"Don't these people understand what I'm going through?" she thought.

~~Emma stepped onto the stage, bracing herself as she prepared her palm cards.~~ [When her turn came, Emma walked to the podium, bracing herself as she prepared her palm cards.] She began to speak. "...he was a kind, caring, and compassionate man – my father." Emotion welled up inside her, and before she even ~~realised~~ [realised], tears were streaming from her eyes like a rushing waterfall.

#3 Then, time seemed to freeze. Everything was still. Emma looked up at the picture of her beloved father, and a bittersweet ~~realisation~~ [realisation] washed over her. How long was she going to keep living like this? How long would she suffer under the weight of his absence? Would her ~~dad~~ [father] want her to live like this? No – whatever he might have thought, she knew one thing for sure: she didn't want to keep blaming herself for his death. Yes, she could be sad. But why dwell forever on one moment, one loss? She was going to ~~cherish~~ [treasure] her time on earth – to live fully, even without him physically beside her. And somehow, in that quiet stillness, she could feel his spirit smiling down on her. Emma wiped her tears, and time unfroze. She continued her speech, but this time with a renewed sense of ~~sadness~~ [purpose] – ~~where sadness meant learning and enjoying life to the fullest~~ [determined to learn from her grief and live life to the fullest].

Though she might ~~have~~ [have] still felt pain, ~~but~~ [but] at least it was no longer just sorrow. Emma finally smiled for the first time since her father's passing, and remembered all the love he had ~~gave~~ [given] her, finding her strength again. Every word she spoke [;] ~~Emma~~ [helped Emma] ~~felt~~ [feel] a little bit more whole, like the presence of her father was growing stronger and stronger.