

Section 1:

**#1 - Opening paragraph establishing conflict** Strengths: Your piece creates immediate tension with the relationship breakdown and uses sensory details like "His angry words still left their mark on her skin" to make the emotional impact feel physical.

Weakness: Redundant phrasing → The opening sentence "The weight of the decision weighed down on her shoulders" repeats the same concept twice. This makes the writing feel clunky rather than powerful. You also have unclear pronoun references - when you write "bridge the void between them back together," it's confusing what exactly needs bridging.

Exemplar: *The decision pressed heavily on her shoulders* or *She felt the burden of her choice*

**#2 - The frozen time sequence** Strengths: Your writing shows creativity with the time-stopping moment and the metaphor of life paths like "glowing like a lantern in a dark forest" creates vivid imagery.

Weakness: Confusing narrative logic → The scene where time freezes doesn't make sense within the story. Water droplets freezing mid-air and then becoming symbols for choices feels disconnected from the realistic tone of the rest of your piece. The transition from frozen time back to normal time is also unclear.

Exemplar: *She paused, considering her options carefully, each possibility appearing in her mind like different paths through a forest*

**#3 - Resolution and final exchange** Strengths: Your dialogue feels natural and the ending shows character growth with Rosalind taking action instead of waiting passively.

Weakness: Inconsistent character motivation → Rosalind suddenly becomes determined after weeks of sadness, but you don't explain what changed her mindset. The shift from despair to confidence happens too quickly without showing the reader why she transformed.

Exemplar: *After reading his goodbye, something shifted inside her - she realised that waiting for him to fix things had only made her feel worse*

■ Your piece tackles the relatable theme of relationship conflict and shows good understanding of character emotions. The story has a clear beginning, middle, and end, which creates a satisfying structure. However, your writing would benefit from clearer explanations of why characters change their minds or feelings. Additionally, you should focus on making your descriptions more straightforward - the time-freezing section confuses readers rather than helping them understand Rosalind's thoughts. Also, watch out for repeating similar ideas in different words, as this makes sentences longer without adding meaning. Try to connect your character's actions more logically so

readers can follow their thinking process. Your dialogue works well, so continue using conversations to show character relationships and development.

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**Overall Score: 42/50**

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Section 2:

~~The weight of the decision weighed down on her shoulders.~~ [The decision weighed heavily on her shoulders.] She had known this moment would come. Sooner or later. ~~The moment when she couldn't bridge the void between them back together.~~ [The moment when she couldn't bridge the void between them.] She had feared it, hoped it wouldn't come, but it had. His angry words still left their mark on her skin. She remembered his last words to her.

"If you don't want me fine, I don't want you either."

He had marched down the street, firmly turning his back on her. ~~In her mind's eye~~ [In her mind's eye], with a surge of anger, she could still see that bright yellow umbrella that had caused their debate. That stupid yellow umbrella. She tried to comfort herself by saying that sooner or later, they would come back together. Rosalind just hoped that Desmond would bridge the gap, solve everything. But deep down, she knew he wouldn't. #1

Every morning, Rosalind would check her phone for messages or even potentially, a call that never came. ~~Her hands reached out in a practiced movement as she reached for her phone~~ [Her hands moved in a practised motion towards her phone], expecting the despairing drop of sadness as she saw an empty screen. She had learned to get used to that feeling. ~~The feeling of hopelessness that had enveloped for weeks.~~ [The feeling of hopelessness that had enveloped her for weeks.] Now she expected to feel the same depressing feeling. But none came. The name flashed across her screen - Desmond. She knew she had to open it, but she didn't want to.

~~Her finger froze on top of it, with everything else.~~ [Her finger froze above the message, and with it, everything else.] The water gushing out of the tap as she filled a cup, froze. Droplets scattering everywhere, but never reaching their destination. She saw her path in front of her, glowing like a lantern in a dark forest, as clear as the moon in an inky black night. She saw her life, and for the first time, the threads connecting them together - her past dilemmas, present circumstance and future possibilities, coming together like one marked line on a GPS, changeable, outlined. She examined the droplets, ~~Now~~ [now], she saw each one as a choice, a decision, a new road to take. Some better, some worse. When time resumed, she would call him, confront him. She had to be the one who bridged the gap between them. #2

As the world swayed back into motion, she knew that she couldn't rely on anyone else to bridge her relationship. It was hers. She had made up her mind. She read the ~~letter~~ [message]. ~~It contained one word~~ [It contained one word]:

Goodbye.

The word didn't sting her like the other angry retorts. She let it go. It didn't mean anything. Desmond might have ~~gave up~~ [given up], but she hadn't. She picked up her phone and dialled the number she had been dreading over the past few weeks. She would no longer hear the angry retorts and statements he made. Just the quiet determination that flowed through her body. She waited, ~~he~~ [but he] didn't respond. Rosalind wouldn't give up that easily. She typed out the one thing she wanted to say to him:

Just because you gave up doesn't mean I have.

There was a long, long pause. Then, a reply:

Fine. Meet me at the café on our road tomorrow. Lunch.

She smiled to herself. She knew she had chosen the right road on the GPS. Now all that was left to do was to get to the destination. **#3**