

Section 1:

#1 "As Lily trudged wearily through the snow, she stepped on a book. The extreme cold formed ice on her lips as she bent down to pick it up. The book had yellowing corners which were bent and a leather cover with gold-trimmed edges. It was the size of Lily's palm. Lily felt shivers everywhere in her body as she opened the book, which was covered in frazil ice."

Strengths: Your detailed description of the book creates a vivid mental image. The introduction of "frazil ice" shows advanced vocabulary.

Sentence variety: → Your opening paragraph uses similar sentence structures repeatedly. Consider varying sentence lengths and structures to create rhythm in your writing. The sentences "The book had yellowing corners" and "It was the size of Lily's palm" follow the same simple structure.

As Lily trudged wearily through the snow, her foot struck something solid—a book. Ice formed on her lips in the bitter cold as she bent to retrieve it. No larger than her palm, the mysterious volume featured yellowing, bent corners and a leather cover with elegant gold-trimmed edges. Shivers raced through her body as she opened the book, its surface glazed with delicate frazil ice.

#2 "She continued trudging through the snow to her cabin while putting the book into her pocket. Once reaching the fireplace, she fell asleep before her mother served dinner."

Strengths: You've established a clear sequence of events. The brevity effectively moves the story forward.

Transition: → This paragraph jumps too quickly between locations without sufficient detail to help readers visualise Lily's journey home. The transition from trudging through snow to suddenly being at a fireplace feels abrupt and misses an opportunity to build atmosphere.

She continued trudging through the snow toward her cabin, the mysterious book safely tucked in her pocket. The warmth greeted her as she pushed open the heavy wooden door, and she collapsed beside the crackling fireplace. The dancing flames and gentle heat soon lulled her into sleep, her eyes closing before her mother even called her for dinner.

#3 "The next day, Lily instantly regretted sleeping by the fireplace. Her head ached as her body felt cold over the wooden tiles. However, she still began the day by reciting word meanings. That day's word theme was negativity and neutralism. "Annihilate means to destroy, as well as eradicate, as scathe means to be angry...possessing means-wait, I know what possessing means?!"

Strengths: The revelation about suddenly knowing the word "possessing" creates an intriguing plot development. Your character's routine of reciting word meanings reveals something important about her personality.

Character depth: → While you've shown Lily is interested in words, this passage could be strengthened by connecting her physical discomfort more clearly to her emotional state. The transition between her physical discomfort and studying words feels disconnected, missing an opportunity to develop Lily's character more fully.

The next day, Lily instantly regretted sleeping by the fireplace. Her head throbbed and her body shivered against the cold wooden tiles, but despite her discomfort, she clung to her daily ritual. Pulling herself upright, she began reciting word meanings as she did every morning, focusing on that day's theme of negativity and neutralism. "Annihilate means to destroy, as well as eradicate, and scathe means to harm or criticise severely... possessing means—wait, I know what possessing means?!"

■ Your story has a captivating premise with the mysterious book that grants knowledge. The setting of a snowy landscape creates a wonderful atmosphere for this magical discovery. To strengthen your piece, focus on developing more consistent pacing throughout the narrative. In the second paragraph, you could expand on Lily's journey home to create a smoother transition between scenes. Additionally, consider deepening Lily's character by showing her reactions to the book's magic in more detail. How does she feel emotionally about suddenly knowing a word she didn't before? Is she scared, excited, or confused? Also, the mention of the Southern Seas creates intrigue, but you could connect this more clearly to Lily's world or interests. Why might this knowledge be significant to a nine-year-old girl? Adding these details would help readers connect more deeply with Lily and become more invested in her magical discovery.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

The Book

As Lily trudged wearily through the snow, she stepped on a book. The extreme cold formed ice on her lips as she bent down to pick it up. The book had yellowing corners which were bent and a leather cover with gold-trimmed edges. It was the size of Lily's palm. Lily felt shivers everywhere in her body as she opened the book, which was covered in frazil ice. #1

The book's words popped out in golden letters. The snow was starting to get heavier, ~~until~~ [until] Lily couldn't ~~her~~ [see her] surroundings anymore through her glasses. However, the book's golden letters still remained in her sight.

The letters read: "By possessing this object, you will gain enough knowledge to lead a ship to cross the Southern Seas." Lily's head turned sideways as she gave the letters a puzzled look. She was only 9, almost 2 years younger than her best friend, Charlotte, and [, and] didn't know what possessing meant. Possessing was officially one of the few words in her head that she didn't know.

She continued trudging through the snow to her cabin while putting the book into her pocket. Once reaching the fireplace, she fell asleep before her mother served dinner. #2

The next day, Lily instantly regretted sleeping by the fireplace. Her head ached as her body felt cold over the wooden tiles. However, she still began the day by reciting word meanings. That day's word theme was negativity and neutralism. "Annihilate means to destroy, as well as eradicate, as [and] scathe means to be angry...possessing means-wait, I know what possessing means?!" #3

Lily shuffled her hands in her pockets. The book was still there! She peered into the book. The golden letters remained and suddenly, Lily knew what it meant.