

Section 1:

#1: "The sizzle of steaming oil meets the early morning air as steam rises from the stovetops like breath on a winter window. It's barely 6:00 AM, but the school canteen is already awake, not with noise, but with purpose."

Strengths:

- Beautiful sensory imagery that immediately places the reader in the canteen environment
- Strong opening that establishes both setting and atmosphere effectively

Weakness: Limited contextual framing → While your introduction creates a vivid scene, it doesn't provide enough context about why the canteen workers' story matters. The reader might wonder about the significance of these workers beyond the atmospheric description. Including a brief hint about their impact would strengthen your opening.

Exemplar: *The sizzle of steaming oil meets the early morning air as steam rises from the stovetops like breath on a winter window. It's barely 6:00 AM, but the school canteen is already awake, not with noise, but with purpose - the quiet dedication that will fuel hundreds of young minds throughout the day.*

#2: "In the back corner, hands move quickly, slicing fruit for a fruit bowl with the same care as a painter filling in the final strokes of a canvas. Every cheese pizza made, every plastic cup stacked, is a quiet act of service. The canteen doesn't just prepare delicious food, it prepares the day for hungry students."

Strengths:

- Effective use of metaphor comparing food preparation to art
- Connects the physical tasks to their deeper purpose of service

Weakness: Underdeveloped character presence → Your writing describes the actions but not the people performing them. The hands are moving, but whose hands? Adding some brief character details would make these workers more real to readers and strengthen the emotional connection to their service.

Exemplar: *In the back corner, Mrs. Chen's hands move quickly, her thirty years of experience evident as she slices fruit for a fruit bowl with the same care as a painter filling in the final strokes of a canvas. Every cheese pizza Mr. Samuels carefully slides into the oven, every plastic cup young Aliya stacks, is a quiet act of service from people who have become a family of their own.*

#3: "While the rest of the school is still sleeping, maybe even yawning awake, the Canteen workers are already halfway through their morning. Their work is mostly unnoticed, but it starts everything, from the first bite of crispy chips at recess to the last shared laugh over lunch."

Strengths:

- Strong contrast between sleeping school and active canteen workers
- Effectively highlights the often invisible nature of their important work

Weakness: Missed opportunity for emotional resonance → Your conclusion identifies that the work is "unnoticed" but doesn't explore how the workers feel about this or why readers should care. Adding an emotional dimension would create a more powerful ending that resonates with readers.

Exemplar: *While the rest of the school is still sleeping, maybe even yawning awake, the canteen workers are already halfway through their morning. Their work is mostly unnoticed, yet they find joy in seeing empty plates return, knowing hungry students have been nourished. In these small moments of connection—from the first bite of crispy chips at recess to the last shared laugh over lunch—they find meaning in their daily service.*

■ Your piece creates a warm, atmospheric glimpse into the canteen workers' world, but could benefit from more depth. Consider adding specific details about the workers themselves—their names, backgrounds, or personalities—to help readers connect with them as real people rather than just hands doing tasks. Also, you might explore their feelings about their work. Do they take pride in it? What challenges do they face? Including dialogue between workers would add another layer to your writing and make the scene more dynamic. Try expanding your final paragraph to show the workers' reactions when students finally arrive. This would create a satisfying narrative arc from early morning preparation to the moment their work fulfils its purpose.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

Title – The Heart of the Canteen Workers

#1: The sizzle of steaming oil meets the early morning air as steam rises from the stovetops like breath on a winter window. It's barely 6:00 AM, but the school canteen is already awake, not with noise, but with purpose.

The soft clatter of trays, the soothing hum of the oven, and the quiet shuffle of aprons brushing past each other create a gentle tune. The air is warm, almost cozy, wrapping around the canteen workers like a soft blanket. The smell of fresh brownie [brownies] mixes with the faint scent of onions being thinly chopped, tickling the nose and making eyes water, though no one complains.

#2: In the back corner, hands move quickly, slicing fruit for a fruit bowl with the same care as a painter filling in the final strokes of a canvas. Every cheese pizza made, every plastic cup stacked, is a quiet act of service. The canteen doesn't just prepare delicious food, it prepares the day for hungry students.

#3: While the rest of the school is still sleeping, maybe even yawning awake, the ~~Canteen~~ [canteen] workers are already halfway through their morning. Their work is mostly unnoticed, but it starts everything, from the first bite of crispy chips at recess to the last shared laugh over lunch.