

Section 1:

#1 "What's the coldest place on the entire Earth? Antarctica. Me and my friends were walking to school, expecting the average, boring day. However, as soon as we got to class, the teacher had a general announcement. "Everybody!", she called. "I have a surprise!"

Strengths: Your opening creates immediate interest with a question and answer format. Your conversational tone engages readers right from the start.

Pronoun usage → Your use of "Me and my friends" throughout the piece needs attention. In standard English, we typically put ourselves last in a list. **(My friends and I were walking to school, expecting an average, boring day.)**

#2 "On our last day, we decided to go ice skating on a frozen lake found near the location of the cabin. Everyone in this class was at least decent at ice skating. So, when we reached there and went on the ice, everything went pretty smoothly until it came. A giant Southern Sleeper Shark pulled up, and one of my classmates saw it beneath the ice."

Strengths: You've built up suspense effectively here by starting with an ordinary activity before introducing an unexpected element. Your use of specific details like "Southern Sleeper Shark" adds authenticity.

Sentence structure → Some of your sentences are fragmented or run-on, which affects the flow of your narrative. **(Everything went smoothly until something unexpected happened - a giant Southern Sleeper Shark appeared beneath the ice, and one of my classmates spotted it.)**

#3 "I then got out of there so fast, I practically skipped across the water's surface. After that close call, we all agreed it would be best if we headed home for the day. Everyone was a bit hungry on the plane flight, but I wasn't greedy enough to keep those candy packets to myself. I think they quite enjoyed them. But what do you think? Was my adventure the craziest thing that could possibly occur to a ten-year-old kid?"

Strengths: Your conclusion effectively wraps up the adventure while directly engaging the reader with questions. You've included a thoughtful detail about sharing candy with classmates.

Transition between events → The shift from the dramatic escape to being on the plane happens too abruptly without explaining how everyone was rescued or how you regrouped. **(After my narrow escape, our teachers quickly gathered everyone together. We all agreed this adventure had become too dangerous, so we packed up our things and headed to the airport. During our flight home, hunger set in.)**

■ Your adventure story shows wonderful imagination and excitement! You've created a memorable Antarctic adventure with sharks, danger, and friendship. To improve your writing, focus on developing your paragraphs more fully. For example, when you mention the shark attack, you could describe more sensory details - how the water felt, what sounds you heard, or what you were thinking. Also, try to make your transitions between scenes smoother. When moving from one location to another, add a few sentences explaining how you got there. Additionally, your dialogue could be expanded to show more of the characters' personalities. Perhaps include what your friends said during the shark encounter or how the teacher responded. Try reading your story aloud to catch places where the pacing feels too rushed.

Score: 43/50

Section 2:

What's the coldest place on the entire Earth? Antarctica. ~~Me and my class~~ [My class and I] just got back from there, and 'cold' is an understatement for the freezing, below-zero temperatures we had to survive. Let me tell you all about it; ~~Me and my friends~~ [My friends and I] were walking to school, expecting the average, boring day. However, as soon as we got to class, the teacher had a general announcement. "Everybody!", she called. "I have a surprise!"

Everyone gathered around and listened to what our teacher had to say. She announced that we would be going to a camp in Antarctica, and we would also be staying there for a week. Most people were terrified, but ~~me and my friends~~ [my friends and I] saw this as a huge opportunity. Antarctica is a cold place, and cold places mean snow! Who doesn't love snow? So, once I reached home, I instantly started packing winter clothes and some packs of candy just in case I got hungry. My mom walked into my room and asked what I was up to.

I told her all about the excursion, expecting her to start talking all about Antarctica. But, to my surprise, she just walked away. Well, I guess I could spend the rest of the afternoon playing video games! So, I hopped on to my computer, logged on Minecraft, and had a lot of fun. After a while, my dad came into my room and told me to go to sleep, so I logged off and got ready for the big day tomorrow.

When I woke up, all I could think about was the trip to Antarctica. I guess going to bed early was not a habit my brain cells could adapt to. So, I brushed my teeth, put on some school clothes, finished breakfast and ran to catch the bus. Once I got on it, ~~me and a bunch of other friends~~ [a bunch of other friends and I] started talking about random things like video games, books or movies. Once we got off, I waved goodbye to them, and we went to our separate classes. When I finally arrived, everyone was ready, and we were lined up to catch a bus that would take us to the airport.

Once we were on, I sat next to my friends and fell asleep like everyone else on the bus. When we woke up, the bus had just arrived at the airport, so we got off and boarded the plane. Guess what happened when we got on the plane? We fell asleep. Again. So, we woke up in the middle of an icy landscape. The pilot waved goodbye to us and flew off into the misty smoke billowing through the foggy Antarctic sky. It was a lot colder than I expected, so I put on my jacket and beanie, and so did my friends.

The teachers told us that after a few minutes, we would start going toward our cabin, so I started looking for anything ~~me and my friends~~ [my friends and I] could do while we waited. Then I saw a large icicle hanging off a snowy wall, and that reminded me why I was so excited to come here in the first place. "Snowball fight!", I yelled, lobbing carefully cushioned balls of snow at my friends. They laughed and threw some back. Soon enough, the whole class had joined. Even the teacher got in on the act.

Soon though, we had to go to our cabin, so we packed up our belongings and headed to the shelter. When we arrived, ~~I and one of my friends~~ [one of my friends and I] instantly ran inside and grabbed the two top bunk beds available. Everyone was pretty annoyed with us, but what can I say? We were just too fast! Right then, it was around 5:30 and everyone seemed pretty tired, so we went to sleep very early.

#1 Surprisingly, I managed to get a whole fourteen hours of sleep that night and woke up at 7:30 in the morning. The rest of the day as well as the next few were pretty uneventful. We had a few snowball fights here and there, but nothing else really exciting happened. That was until the final day of the week of excursion to Antarctica. And you are never going to believe what happened.

#2 On our last day, we decided to go ice skating on a frozen lake found near the location of the cabin. Everyone in this class was at least decent at ice skating. So, when we reached there and went on the ice, everything went pretty smoothly until it came. ~~A giant Southern Sleeper Shark pulled up, and one of my classmates saw it beneath the ice.~~ [Suddenly, a giant Southern Sleeper Shark appeared beneath the ice, and one of my classmates spotted it.] Well, this kid was really scared of sharks, so he let out a shrill screech that alerted everybody. Now I know what the scientists reading this are thinking; No sharks live or can live in Antarctica, right? Well, apparently they can. I didn't know this until now either, but I saw that shark with my own eyes, and I can confirm that sharks can live in the Antarctic. Now, back to the story.

Everyone was panicking, and there was a lot of running and screaming. Then the ice cracked, and if my eardrums weren't damaged before, they certainly were now. The amount of people shouting for help was unnecessary, even for a shark attack. Fortunately, I knew how to swim, so I paddled out of there. I swam underwater, looking for an opening that I could hide in.

Eventually, I found one, and I hid in it, making sure to stay still so the shark ~~won't~~ [wouldn't] sense the vibrations of my actions. Eventually, it was gone, so I cautiously made my way out. Then I swam to the skating place as quickly as possible. Just before I got out of the water, a pair of jaws snapped shut behind me. Unfortunately for the shark, it had missed me.

#3 ~~I then got out of there so fast, I practically skipped across the water's surface.~~ [I scrambled out of the water so quickly that I practically skipped across its surface.] After that close call, we all agreed it would be best if we headed home for the day. Everyone was a bit hungry on the plane flight, but I wasn't greedy enough to keep those candy packets to myself. I think they quite enjoyed them. But what do you think? Was my adventure the craziest thing that could possibly occur to a ten-year-old kid? Or will something even crazier happen that tops this one? Stay tuned to find out!