

Section 1:

#1 "Boom! The ground shook beneath me. I stumbled, nearly falling into the ash covered slope. Behind me, the volcano screamed a deep, earth shattering roar that split the sky in two."

Strengths: Your opening creates immediate action and tension. The short, punchy sentences build excitement right from the start.

Weakness: Missing punctuation in compound adjectives → The phrase "ash covered slope" needs a hyphen to connect the words properly. Also, "earth shattering" should be hyphenated as "earth-shattering" when used before a noun.

Exemplar: *"I stumbled, nearly falling into the ash-covered slope. Behind me, the volcano screamed a deep, earth-shattering roar that split the sky in two."*

#2 "The air stank of smoke and burnt matches, like rotten eggs and metal. I yelled, choking on ash, 'Keep going! Don't stop!' The world looked like a nightmare, like someone had erased all colour in the world and lit the sky on fire."

Strengths: Your sensory details help readers smell and feel the scene. The dialogue adds urgency to the moment.

Weakness: Repetitive sentence structure → Most sentences follow the same pattern, making the writing feel choppy. The word "like" appears too many times in a short space, creating awkward repetition.

Exemplar: *"The air reeked of smoke and burnt matches, carrying the stench of rotten eggs and metal. Choking on ash, I yelled, 'Keep going! Don't stop!' The world resembled a nightmare where someone had drained all colour and set the sky ablaze."*

#3 "We listened. Something scratched in the darkness. It was not the volcano. It was something else. I turned on my torch. There was a shadow silhouetted in the distance."

Strengths: Your short sentences create suspense and mystery. The pacing slows down effectively to build tension.

Weakness: Excessive sentence fragmentation → Too many very short sentences make the writing feel disconnected. The ideas could flow better with some sentences combined.

Exemplar: *"We listened carefully, and something scratched in the darkness—not the volcano, but something else entirely. When I turned on my torch, a shadow appeared silhouetted in the distance."*

■ Your piece creates an exciting adventure story with strong action and suspense. The volcanic setting feels dangerous and real through your sensory details. However, your writing would benefit from varying sentence lengths to create better flow. Additionally, some sentences need connecting words to link ideas more smoothly. Your dialogue works well to show urgency, but you could add more character thoughts and feelings to help readers connect with the narrator. Also, consider combining some short sentences to avoid a choppy feeling. The ending builds good mystery, but you could develop the cave discovery more to increase tension. Try reading your work aloud to hear where sentences feel disconnected, then add transition words or combine related ideas.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 Boom! The ground shook beneath me. I stumbled, nearly falling into the ~~ash-covered~~ [ash-covered] slope. Behind me, the volcano screamed a deep, ~~earth-shattering~~ [earth-shattering] roar that split the sky in two. It thundered ~~ear-splitting~~ [ear-splitting] uproar and I felt like I was deaf. I didn't look back. I couldn't. Hot wind slammed into my back as I ran, every step crunching over cracked earth. The sky had turned a sickly grey, and hot ash rained down like burning snow. My throat felt like sandpaper. Each breath scorched my lungs, and my legs were turning to jelly, but the sound behind us kept pushing me forward. A deep, awful roar. The sound of the earth breaking apart.

#2 The air stank of smoke and burnt matches, like rotten eggs and metal. I yelled, choking on ash, "Keep going! Don't stop!" The world looked like a nightmare, ~~like someone had erased all colour in the world and lit the sky on fire~~ [as if someone had erased all colour and set the sky ablaze]. A boulder, still glowing red, crashed metres away from me. Heat slapped my skin like a whip. My legs screamed for rest and I felt like I was going to collapse. My chest felt like it was going to jump out of me. "There! A cave!" I pointed and cried to warn the others, running towards a jagged shadow in the rocks. We stumbled across clumps of smoking branches, our shoes nearly melting, and dove into the darkness. The heat followed us to the entrance. Inside, it was cool, silent. My heart pounded so hard I could hear it. The air tasted like damp rock and dust but it was much better than smoke and ash. I collapsed onto the stone floor, coughing, sweating and trembling. We could have died out there.

~~#3 We listened. Something scratched in the darkness. It was not the volcano. It was something else. I turned on my torch. There was a shadow silhouetted in the distance.~~ [We listened carefully, and something scratched in the darkness—not the volcano, but something else entirely. When I turned on my torch, a shadow appeared silhouetted in the distance.] It was much more than just a human. I wasn't sure which was more dangerous, the fire above us or the secret buried below. All I knew was we were not the only ones in the cave.