

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph and build-up to the match

Strengths: Your piece effectively creates anticipation through James' long wait and dreams about the match. The connection between his soccer performance and earning this reward shows good character motivation.

Weakness: Unclear timeline and confusing sequence → The opening mentions "A few weeks ago, James had already been waiting" which creates confusion about when events are happening. The phrase "already been waiting" suggests he was waiting before the few weeks ago, making the timeline muddled. Additionally, jumping from thunder to backstory without clear transitions makes the narrative flow awkward.

Exemplar: *Three weeks before the match, James began his eager wait for what would become the most valuable experience of his young life.*

#2 - Family sacrifice and economic context

Strengths: Your writing shows empathy by including the family's financial struggles and parents' hard work. This adds emotional depth and makes James' disappointment more meaningful.

Weakness: Repetitive sentence structure and vague descriptions → Many sentences follow the same pattern of "James did this" or "He wanted that," creating monotonous rhythm. Phrases like "worked through nights and long, stressful weeks of tiredness" are wordy without adding specific detail about what the parents actually did for work or how they saved money.

Exemplar: *His parents, both working extra shifts at the local factory, had saved every spare dollar for months to afford the tickets.*

#3 - Stadium atmosphere and weather description

Strengths: Your piece uses sensory details like the crowd sounds and grey clouds to create atmosphere. The contrast between the excitement and gloomy weather builds tension effectively.

Weakness: Mixed metaphors and awkward comparisons → The writing combines musical metaphors (orchestra, choir, music performance) inconsistently throughout the piece. The phrase "bright with all the fans bringing everything together" doesn't clearly explain how fans create brightness, and "Grey clouds hovered over the area" is too vague about the location.

Exemplar: *Despite the overcast sky, the stadium buzzed with energy as thousands of supporters filled the stands with their colourful scarves and chants.*

■ Your piece demonstrates good storytelling instincts with a clear beginning, middle, and disappointing end followed by hope. The emotional journey of James waiting, being disappointed, then getting a second chance creates a satisfying narrative arc. However, your writing would benefit from clearer sentence construction and more specific details. Instead of saying James "jumped around enthusiastically," describe exactly what he did - perhaps he practiced his team's chants or wore his lucky jersey. Also, focus on varying your sentence beginnings to avoid the repetitive "James did" pattern. Additionally, when describing the family's financial situation, include concrete details like specific jobs or how long they saved. Your use of weather to reflect mood shows good literary awareness, but make sure your metaphors stay consistent throughout the piece. The ending provides nice closure with the rematch opportunity, showing James's resilience.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2:

#1 The first crash of thunder silenced the crowd like the ending of a music performance. ~~A few weeks ago, James had already been waiting for~~ [Three weeks earlier, James had been eagerly anticipating] one of the most valuable things he had ever ~~seen~~ [experienced]. It was a soccer match with his ~~favorite~~ [favourite] team playing against his least ~~favorite~~ [favourite] team. James would ~~always~~ [often] dream about it every night, thinking about how the match might turn out.

#2 Anticipation ran through James' body, hoping for the day to come soon. He wanted to be able to see this game as a reward from his parents because he ~~scored lots of goals~~ [had scored numerous goals] in his soccer match, winning with his team cheering for him. Excitement grew every day as it got closer to seeing the grand match between the teams.

He wanted to do everything to ~~make his team he was rooting for would win~~ [to ensure his supported team would achieve victory]. James couldn't sleep the night before the competition he was attending. He really wanted the match to be worth the money because it was most likely the only time he would ever be able to see a match like this. His family was not that rich, and his parents did all they could to pay to see the match. ~~They worked through nights and long, stressful weeks of tiredness~~ [They worked night shifts and endured long, exhausting weeks to save the money].

#3 The day had come; the day James had been waiting for like a famous orchestra was about to play. James was jumping around, enthusiastically thinking about the competition. Waiting in line, people chattered and screamed excitedly like a choir. Everyone was also extremely interested in what was going to happen.

The weather was gloomy and dark with a little bit of sunlight, yet it was still bright with all the fans bringing everything together. Grey clouds hovered over the ~~area~~ [stadium]. They waited patiently and soon were in the stadium. ~~Soon enough~~ [Eventually], the match began. James' team was winning against the opponents.

The first crash of thunder silenced the crowd like the ending of a music performance. Everyone panicked as it started pouring with rain. The match was cancelled. James slumped his shoulders and went home all depressed. His only chance wasn't successful. All the money. Gone. ~~James's~~ [James'] heart stung, losing all hope in ~~the match and seeing it again~~ [ever witnessing such a match again].

Days passed, and there was ~~notice~~ [an announcement] about the match. People who attended and had to leave could come and see the rematch. James' face immediately lit up. He was ready.