

Section 1:

#1 Strengths: Your introduction effectively establishes Lucy's character and her relationship with her dog. The dialogue reveals Lucy's thoughts about school and friendship transitions.

Weakness: Character development needs more depth → Lucy's personality is presented rather simply through statements rather than being shown through her actions and reactions. You mention "Lucy suddenly frowned" but don't fully explore her emotions about changing schools beyond surface statements.

Exemplar: *"Lucy's smile faded as she stroked Willow's soft fur. 'I'll miss seeing Mei and Jacob every day,' she whispered, her voice catching slightly. 'Different schools mean different friends.' She brightened a bit. 'But Anna and I will stick together at Brighton College. We've already planned our lunch spot under the big oak tree.'"*

#2 Strengths: You've created an interesting backstory with the contrast between Lucy's wealthy present and her more modest past. The inclusion of her mother's departure adds emotional depth to the narrative.

Weakness: Show-don't-tell approach needed → The background information about Lucy's father and mother is presented as direct exposition rather than being revealed naturally through scenes, dialogue or memories. This creates distance between the reader and Lucy's emotional experience.

Exemplar: *"Lucy traced her finger along the photo frame on her bedside table—the only one with her mother in it. Three-year-old Lucy sat on a swing, her mother pushing her higher, both laughing. That night, Lucy had fallen asleep to the sound of suitcase wheels rolling across the floor and the front door clicking shut. Now she lived in a mansion with servants, but that hollow feeling had never quite gone away."*

#3 Strengths: The birthday scene effectively shows the relationship between Lucy and her father. The locket as a connection to her mother creates a meaningful plot device.

Weakness: Emotional pacing needs refinement → The reunion with Lucy's mother happens too abruptly with little build-up or tension. The emotional climax of meeting her mother feels rushed and lacks the weight such a significant moment deserves.

Exemplar: *"Lucy's hands trembled as she clutched the letter. Someone had actually responded—could it really be her? Days passed with Lucy checking the front gate every hour. When the doorbell finally rang on Thursday afternoon, Lucy froze at the top of the stairs, suddenly terrified. What if the woman at the door wasn't the same as the face she'd been dreaming about for years?"*

■ Your story has a lovely central concept about a child's yearning for her mother that many readers would connect with. The birthday wish theme and the locket create meaningful symbols that work well together. To strengthen your writing, consider slowing down important moments to let readers experience them fully. When Lucy receives the locket or meets her mother, include her physical sensations (racing heart, shaky hands) and detailed observations. Also, create more tension by adding obstacles—perhaps her mother's letter gets lost, or her father initially discourages the reunion. Additionally, develop Lucy's character beyond her wealth—what makes her unique? What special talents or quirks does she have? Your dialogue shows promise, but try making each character's voice more distinctive. Lucy might speak with childlike enthusiasm while her father uses more formal business language. With these adjustments, your heartwarming story would become even more engaging.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

A Birthday Wish

Lucy was sitting at the edge of her bed, on the morning before her birthday. As she was changing her clothes, her dog, Willow, toddled into her bedroom. "Who's my little girly? Who's my little girly?" Lucy asked, with a soft tone, as she lifted the corgi onto her bed. Lucy jumped out of bed and dressed into her school uniform. "Today is the last day of school for the term!" ~~Exclaimed~~ [exclaimed] Lucy, to her dog [.]. "Also for the year! And next year, I will be moving off to big school!" Lucy suddenly frowned. "But that means I can't be with my friends, because we're all going to different schools. ~~But~~ [But] at least I'm going to Brighton College with Anna," she continued, "and we are going to have so much fun!"

#1 Lucy's father is extremely rich. He is the founder and owner of one of the UK's most successful businesses and has tons of assets. Unfortunately, he can't spend much time with his daughter, being an entrepreneur, so Lucy usually works on homework with some of her friends when they come over. Lucy's last memory of her mother was when she kissed Lucy goodnight, and she packed her bags, and left out of the blue. Lucy was three and didn't understand anything. Back then, Lucy's family was average in terms of wealth. She was going to a normal preschool, and her dad was just an employee for a random company that shut down soon after her father joined. Lucy's father always told her that it was her mother's own loss to just have left like that.

After Lucy woke up the next day, she rushed over to her father's office. He was sitting in front of his computer, looking at the screen. "Daddy!" Lucy yelled, as she fell into her father's arms. "Happy birthday, my sweet angel! Do you want to go to the mall together? Or go somewhere to celebrate your birthday?" Lucy shook her head. "I want to go find Mummy." "Well, sweetie, I have a present for you,

that I can only give you tonight." He replied, with a smug smile. "I can get you a new iPad, or 800 Robux, if you want!" Lucy picked Willow up, and soon, she was snoring on Lucy's lap. "It's ok. Can we go to the mall? I saw on the Louis Vuitton website that they released a new bag!" Her dad nodded. "Lucy, I have a meeting, real quick, but then we can do whatever we want when I am done, ok?" Before he was done, Lucy had already fetched her iPad and started playing 'Dress To Impress'.

#2 After they went to the mall, Lucy and her dad sat at the dining table, with the cake ~~chef~~ [the chef] had prepared for them. "Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday to you!" all the servants and Lucy's father sang. As Lucy blew out the candles, she quietly whispered: "I wish to find mummy someday." Lucy's father handed his daughter a locket. "This~." ~~Lucy's father told her, with a pause, "Is your mother's only belonging that she left behind in our old house." And with a whisper, he added,~~~ "Keep it safe. One day you will find her." From that moment, Lucy used her mother's locket with her photo as a strength. She held it at her heart and stared at it for a long time as she was going to sleep. "I wish for a mummy." Lucy muttered, as she fell asleep.

That night, she had a very weird dream. She was out with her friends one day, when the woman she saw in her photo ran up to her and hugged her. She was smothering kisses all over Lucy, and she was feeling very embarrassed in front of her friends. That was all she remembered. The next day, early in the morning, she ran to her father's office. "What's up, my angel pie?" Her father asked. His eyes were sagging, and the ~~part~~ [skin] under his eyes ~~were~~ [was] all purple and floppy. He looked sleepy. "What is my mummy's name? I want to write her a letter." "That's a good idea! Her name is Eleanor Harrington." Lucy ran off. She grabbed a piece of paper and started writing.

Dear mummy, Yesterday was my seventh birthday. Daddy gifted me a locket with your photo. I really miss you. I hope you can come visit us at Belleflower Avenue. And guess what! We have a mansion in the avenue-all too ourselves! Love, Lucy Montague

Lucy skipped to the postbox and carefully placed her letter there. She blew a kiss to the letter, and went back home. A few days later, a letter arrived at the postbox. It was addressed to Lucy! She tore the letter open and read it. "Dear... Daddy! I can't read it! It's too messy!" Lucy's mum wrote the letter in beautiful cursive, but as a child, Lucy couldn't read it properly. As her dad came over, he looked at the letter and read it. "Dear Lucy," Lucy's father said "I cannot believe that you are already going to school! I miss you so much, and..." Then, the doorbell rang. One of the servants came into the room, and said "Madame Lucy, and Master Matthew, you have a visitor at your door. Her name is Eleanor Harrington." Lucy didn't wait longer for the servant to finish, and raced down the grand stairs.

#3 "Mummy!" Lucy squealed "I'm so happy you came! Did you see my letter?" "I did indeed." Said the woman who looked like the woman in Lucy's locket. "I sure did. As soon as I saw it, I told my boss I needed a few days off, and came over here to find you! I cannot believe you have grown so tall and strong now! Hello, Matthew. I'm sorry I left." Now Lucy's father had come down the stairs, too. "Mummy can you stay? Daddy can mummy stay? And also, I'm going to Brighton College next term!" "Of course, Lucy if you want her to, she can stay forever!" Lucy was so excited that she couldn't speak. She hugged both of her parents, and dragged them both up the stairs.