

## Section 1:

#1 "I was sitting there motionless, flipping through a random graphic novel, when out of nowhere, Mrs. J called out, "Ayman, have you returned your Peppa Pig book?" I replied, "Not yet. I'll bring it back tomorrow." She narrowed her eyes and said with a smirk, "You better have it, or there will be serious consequences.""

Strengths: Your opening immediately establishes the setting and conflict. The dialogue effectively reveals character dynamics between the protagonist and Mrs. J.

Underdeveloped characterisation → Your introduction of Mrs. J presents her as potentially antagonistic, but we don't learn enough about her to understand her motivations. Consider adding brief details about her usual demeanour or her relationship with you to help readers understand if her "serious consequences" comment is typical or unusual.

***Mrs. J adjusted her glasses and narrowed her eyes—the same stern look she'd given me twice this week. "You better have it tomorrow, or there will be serious consequences. That's the third extension I've given you," she said with a knowing smirk.***

#2 "I woke up, brushed my teeth, ate breakfast, and got ready for school. Something felt off — like I'd forgotten something important — but I brushed it aside and jumped into the car. As we pulled into the school gates, the realization hit me like a thunderbolt. I had forgotten the library book. Again."

Strengths: You've created good tension through foreshadowing. The reader can sense the impending problem before the character realises it, which builds anticipation.

Limited sensory details → Your morning routine is presented as a list of activities without immersing the reader in how it felt. Including sensory details about the morning rush would help readers connect with your experience and better understand why you forgot the book.

***I woke up with sleep still fogging my brain, rushed through brushing my teeth and gulping down my breakfast. The whole time, a nagging feeling tugged at the back of my mind. Something important was missing, but in the hurry of getting ready, I pushed the thought away and dashed to the waiting car. Only as we approached the familiar brick entrance of the school did the memory crash into me—the Peppa Pig book still sitting on my bedroom desk.***

#3 "As we pulled into the school gates, the realization hit me like a thunderbolt. I had forgotten the library book. Again. The moment we stopped, my mother's anger exploded. In front of everyone, she struck me. The marks were clear. The pain, worse. I didn't want to call her "Mum" anymore."

Strengths: This section effectively conveys the emotional intensity of the moment. The short sentences create a powerful impact that mirrors the character's shock.

Abrupt emotional shift → Your transition from realising you've forgotten the book to your mother's extreme reaction happens too quickly. There's a missing emotional bridge that would help readers understand the escalation and the depth of your feelings.

*As we pulled into the school gates, the realisation hit me like a thunderbolt. I had forgotten the library book. Again. My stomach twisted into a tight knot as I turned to my mother, whose expression hardened when she saw my panicked face. "The book," I whispered. The moment we stopped, her anger exploded without warning. In front of staring classmates and parents, she struck me hard enough to leave marks. The physical pain stung, but worse was the feeling of betrayal that washed over me. In that moment, I couldn't even bring myself to think of her as "Mum" anymore.*

■ Your piece shows promise with its clear narrative arc and emotional core. The central conflict around the forgotten library book creates genuine tension, but your storytelling would benefit from more developed scenes rather than summarised events. You've included powerful moments like the confrontation with your mother, but these scenes need more contextual buildup to reach their full impact. Also, consider exploring the emotional journey more deeply by showing your internal thoughts throughout the story. The ending effectively brings the narrative full circle with the image of the library book, but you could strengthen this by connecting it more explicitly to how you've changed. Try expanding key moments like the conversation with Mrs. J and the school officials' reaction to provide more substance to your narrative. Slowing down at critical points will allow readers to fully experience the emotional weight of your story.

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**Overall Score: 41/50**

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Section 2:

The Quiet Library

I was sitting there motionless, flipping through a random graphic novel, when out of nowhere, Mrs. J called out, #1 "Ayman, have you returned your Peppa Pig book?" I replied, "Not yet. I'll bring it back tomorrow." She narrowed her eyes and said with a smirk, "You better have it, or there will be serious consequences."

The bell rang. I rushed downstairs and headed home, dreading the reaction of my overly strict parents. As I opened the door, I was met with scowls. "WHY IS THE LIBRARY BOOK STILL ON YOUR DESK?" they growled. Panicking, I sprinted like Wally West to the table. Sure enough, the book was still there, mocking me.

## The Next Day

I woke up, brushed my teeth, ate breakfast, and got ready for school. Something felt off — like I'd forgotten something important — but I brushed it aside and jumped into the car. #2

As we pulled into the school gates, the realization hit me like a thunderbolt. #3 I had forgotten the library book. Again. The moment we stopped, my mother's anger exploded. In front of everyone, she struck me. The marks were clear. The pain, worse. I didn't want to call her "Mum" anymore.

Mrs. J noticed the bruises immediately. Without a word, she grabbed my arm and took me straight to the head office. They asked me what happened, but I struggled to explain it properly. They dismissed my explanation and called home.

Later that evening, I returned to more anger, more punishment. I didn't cry — I just endured it. Eventually, I crawled into bed, aching in every limb, and stared at the small object on my desk that had caused it all. A library book.