

## Section 1:

**#1** - Opening paragraph: "The first crash of thunder silenced the crowd, not a single person speaking or moving. Maya and Tara Harper, twin sisters cheerleading for the Titan Rangers football club, came to a halt."

**Strengths:** Your opening creates immediate atmosphere with the thunder crash, and you establish the main characters clearly with their names and context.

**Pacing inconsistency** → Your narrative jumps too quickly from the thunderstorm to background information without allowing readers to absorb the dramatic moment. The phrase "A couple of minutes earlier it had been sunny without a cloud in the sky" disrupts the tension you've built. Your writing would benefit from maintaining the storm's intensity before explaining the weather change.

**Exemplar:** *Thunder crashed overhead, freezing every person in the stadium. Maya and Tara Harper stopped mid-cheer, their pom-poms drooping as the first heavy raindrops began to fall.*

**#2** - Middle section: "Months after the game it was still raining nonstop. The floods had swept all the cars parked on the street away. Luckily most houses were on stilts so they weren't affected."

**Strengths:** You've created a clear consequence from the magical element, and the detail about houses on stilts shows good world-building consideration.

**Logical gaps** → Your story doesn't explain the connection between finding the necklace and the continuous rain. The phrase "Months after the game it was still raining nonstop" lacks clear cause-and-effect reasoning. Readers need to understand why the rain continued and how Tara's discovery relates to the flooding.

**Exemplar:** *Ever since Tara had touched the glowing necklace, the rain hadn't stopped. Month after month, water flooded the streets, sweeping away cars and forcing families to rely on their stilted homes for safety.*

**#3** - Climax section: "She climbed till she was at the top, pulling the necklace out of her pocket. She threw the necklace into the hole. Then there was a loud explosion, knocking her off the ledge."

**Strengths:** Your action sequence moves quickly and creates genuine danger for Tara, building suspense effectively.

**Emotional depth lacking** → Your writing focuses on physical actions but misses the emotional weight of Tara's sacrifice. The phrase "She threw the necklace into the hole" feels too simple for such an important moment. Your story needs more internal conflict about destroying something that might be valuable or meaningful.

**Exemplar:** *With trembling hands, Tara pulled the mystical necklace from her pocket. Taking a deep breath, she whispered a prayer and hurled it into the molten depths, knowing this choice would either save everyone or destroy them all.*

■ Your piece shows creativity in combining sports, weather magic, and sisterly relationships into an engaging adventure story. The concept of cursed mustard seeds causing endless rain demonstrates imaginative world-building that primary readers will find intriguing. However, your narrative needs stronger connections between events to help readers follow the story logic more easily. Additionally, your characters need more emotional development throughout their journey. Consider expanding on why Tara keeps the secret from Maya and how this affects their relationship. Your dialogue sections work well, particularly the conversation between the sisters at the end, but earlier portions of your story could benefit from more character interaction. Also, your descriptions of the volcano and flooding create vivid imagery, yet some transitions between scenes feel rushed. Try adding more details about how characters feel during important moments, especially when Tara discovers the necklace's true power and when she decides to destroy it.

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**Score: 42/50**

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## Section 2:

#1 The first crash of thunder silenced the crowd, not a single person speaking or moving. Maya and Tara Harper, twin sisters cheerleading for the Titan Rangers football club, came to a halt. A couple of minutes earlier it had been sunny without a cloud in the sky. Then the rain started. Everyone including the players ~~that~~ [who] were desperate to win the grand final ran for shelter.

#2 Everything was a blur. Everyone left the stadium. ~~Whilst~~ [While] leaving Tara tripped on a scarf and fell. She stood up and saw something glowing brightly on the ground. [—] ~~▲~~ [a] mustard seed necklace. [,] ~~▲~~ [a] symbol of faith and growth. She cautiously picked it up.

'It can't be,' [,] ~~She~~ [she] thought. 'They were forbidden decades ago.'

#3 Months after the game it was still raining nonstop. The floods had swept all the cars parked on the street away. Luckily most houses were on stilts so they weren't affected. Still, they couldn't go to school due to the flooding. With nothing to do they sat on the floor at home bored.

Tara had found online ~~it~~ [that it] was illegal to have the necklace and if you were found with one you could end up in jail. She became more worried and made sure to keep the necklace safe. She didn't tell Maya. She didn't want anyone else to get in trouble.

One day she came across a headline: MUSTARD SEEDS BANNED DUE TO DEATHLY FLOODS. The article said ~~any~~ [that any] mustard seed that was exposed to sunlight would cause unstoppable rain. The mustard seeds had ~~had~~ a spell put on them by a horrendous witch. The floods had caused many animals and people to die. [,] ~~The~~ [and the] witch had vanished. With no way to reverse the spell, the government had no choice but to ban them. They got rid of the existing seeds by throwing them into the deep molten lava of the volcano at the edge of town. After that, the rain finally stopped. This article was published two decades ago. Tara knew what she had to do.

The next day Tara heaved the blow-up ~~dingy~~ [dinghy] from her shed onto what was now a large body of water. She rowed towards the volcano. She arrived and climbed out stepping onto the only piece of dry land. She stared up at the volcano. It was large and had millions of tiny pieces of lava spitting out of the top. It smelled of a burning campfire. It reminded her of the sun. She froze, knees shaking and heart beating as if a jaguar was about to have her for dinner. She was soaked from the rain but she was glad it held the lava back slightly. She climbed ~~thru~~ [until] she was at the top, pulling the necklace out of her pocket. She threw the necklace into the hole. Then there was a loud explosion, knocking her off the ledge. She fell onto her back, wincing in pain. She saw orange and felt an unimaginable amount of heat. She felt a sturdy hand pulling her onto her feet and a voice – Maya's voice – telling her to run. She was lightning, running for her life.

Back in the ~~dingy~~ [dinghy], rowing home, Maya explained she saw Tara rowing away from the house. She took a boogie board to follow her. Tara explained the whole story about the mustard seeds. Maya was disappointed that Tara hadn't asked her for help.

'You almost died,' [,] exclaimed Maya.

'I've learned my lesson now [—] I won't keep secrets from you,' [,] said Tara. Tara hugged her sister, ~~face~~ [her face] streaming ~~in~~ [with] tears. She was glad to be safe.