

## Section 1:

**#1** - Opening paragraph: "Rippling faster than a cheetah through the grandstands of the football stadium, the booming of the thunder, louder than the crashing of a giant's steps, terminated everything."

**Strengths:** Your opening creates immediate tension and uses vivid imagery to set the scene. The comparison between thunder and a giant's steps helps readers imagine the powerful sound.

**Weakness: Sentence Structure Problems** → Your opening sentence tries to pack too many ideas together, making it confusing to follow. The phrase "rippling faster than a cheetah through the grandstands" doesn't clearly connect to thunder, and readers might wonder what is actually rippling. The sentence structure makes it hard to understand what's happening first.

**Exemplar:** *Thunder crashed through the football stadium, louder than a giant's footsteps, silencing every laugh and cheer.*

**#2** - Character reflection: "As I bolted down the stairs, towards the welcoming gates, memories replayed like a movie in my head. The joyful days when ice-cream slid down our chins, laughing together in the chairs labelled 'COACH' or the days when we held on to warm mugs of hot chocolate, our teeth chattering in the frigid winter air."

**Strengths:** Your use of specific memories like ice-cream and hot chocolate helps readers connect with the character's feelings. The contrast between happy memories and the current danger creates emotional impact.

**Weakness: Unclear Details** → Your description of sitting in chairs labelled 'COACH' is confusing because you don't explain why the character and family would be sitting in coaching chairs at a stadium. This detail doesn't fit with the story context and leaves readers puzzled about the character's background.

**Exemplar:** *The joyful days when ice-cream slid down our chins as we laughed together in the stadium seats, or the days when we held warm mugs of hot chocolate, our teeth chattering in the winter air.*

**#3** - Hospital scene: "The putrid scent of chemicals and medicine wafted up my nostrils, filling my mind with a disgusting smell. My eyes snapped open, and I was blinded by the bright lights and snow white walls."

**Strengths:** Your sensory details help readers experience the hospital setting. The contrast between the harsh hospital environment and the character's emotional state works well.

**Weakness: Word Choice Repetition** → Your sentence repeats the same idea twice by saying both "putrid scent" and "disgusting smell" to describe the hospital odours. This makes your writing feel repetitive and doesn't add new information for readers.

**Exemplar:** *The sharp scent of disinfectant filled my nostrils as my eyes snapped open to blinding lights and pristine white walls.*

■ Your piece tackles a challenging emotional situation and shows good understanding of how to create tension in storytelling. The main character's difficult choice between self-preservation and family loyalty gives your story real emotional weight. However, your writing would benefit from clearer sentence structure and more precise word choices. Additionally, some details in your story need better explanation to help readers understand the setting and characters. Your ending, where the character becomes a counsellor, shows nice character growth, but you could strengthen this by explaining more clearly how this experience changed them. Also, work on making your transitions between paragraphs smoother so readers can follow the story more easily. Focus on writing shorter, clearer sentences that each contain one main idea, and make sure every detail you include helps readers understand the story better.

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**Score: 44/50**

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## Section 2:

~~#1 Rippling faster than a cheetah through the grandstands of the football stadium, the booming of the thunder, louder than the crashing of a giant's steps, terminated everything.~~ [Thunder crashed through the football stadium, louder than a giant's footsteps, silencing everything.] Every laugh. Every cheer. Every heartbeat. Deluges of rain started pouring down in sheets, drenching everyone to the bone.

#2 Glancing nervously at the pale faces around me, I gripped my Gucci handbag, my trembling hands, clammy from perspiration, grasping onto the handles like a worn out candle, flickering in the wind. After several minutes of relentless downpour, an ominous creaking sound emerged from above. The stadium roof, unable to withstand the pressure, began collapsing down in sections. Gasps rolled through the spectators, unable to process how their euphoric night cheering their favourite players on became a harrowing, living nightmare.

Instinctively, I pushed and knocked away everything and everyone in my path. My auburn hair slashed at other spectators' faces, leading them to stare at me as I attempted to escape the grandstand. Behind me, my parents, my sister who was nine, six years younger than me, and the stadium where I trained and marvelled at my idols every day.

As I bolted down the stairs, towards the welcoming gates, memories replayed like a movie in my head. ~~#3 The joyful days when ice-cream slid down our chins, laughing together in the chairs labelled 'COACH' or the days when we held on to warm mugs of hot chocolate, our teeth chattering in the frigid winter air.~~ [The joyful days when ice-cream slid down our chins as we laughed together in the stadium seats, or the days when we held warm mugs of hot chocolate, our teeth chattering in the winter air.] Tears welled in my eyes, knowing that in a split second, those memories could be shattered.

The moment I reached the colossal stadium gates, my mind split into halves. On one hand, I wanted to run back, risk my life but embrace my parents and sister, but on the other hand, I wanted to protect myself, live safely, but without my family. As I glanced back at the panicked, chaotic crowd, I noticed the tragedy, the wreckage, the danger of the situation, and made a life changing decision, to protect myself but not my beloved family.

My body trembling with fear, I sprinted. Through the streets. Past friends' houses. Away from everyone I loved. My chest tightened, my lungs piercing with pain. Each breath became more difficult, more shallow, until it became impossible. My vision began to blur. Then... black.

~~#4 The putrid scent of chemicals and medicine wafted up my nostrils, filling my mind with a disgusting smell.~~ [The sharp scent of disinfectant filled my nostrils.] My eyes snapped open, and I was blinded by the bright lights and snow white walls. "Oh gosh," I whispered, "I'm in a hospital." As soon as I regained consciousness, I asked the nurse next to me where my family was. The smile on her face, as warm as a ~~mothers~~ [mother's] embrace, immediately faded away. "They... they... like many others, didn't make it," she stuttered. Tears welled up in my eyes, sliding down my cheeks and onto my chin, before overwhelming grief consumed me entirely.

I work as a counsellor for a living now, helping those who lost loved ones in tragic accidents, especially in the 2019 storm. Sometimes, I wish I had been less selfish and assisted others in evacuating the stadium, but on other days, I know there was absolutely nothing I could do.