

### Section 1:

**#1** - Opening paragraph: "The first crash of thunder silenced the crowd... Lightning shook light poles and hearts like it owned them."

**Strengths:** Your opening creates immediate atmosphere with strong sensory details. The personification of lightning "owning" the light poles and hearts effectively shows the storm's power.

**Weakness: Unclear scene setting** → Your readers don't know where this gathering is happening or why people are there until later in the story. The phrase "every cheer and whispered conversation vanished" suggests something was happening before, but you haven't told us what. This makes it hard for readers to understand the importance of the moment.

**Exemplar:** *Before the storm hit, hundreds of people had gathered in the town plaza for the monthly community meeting, where locals could share their concerns.*

**#2** - Middle section: "As a gust flung water into her face... That time, fear had gripped her until Grandma whispered, 'The storm passes, dear. So do the troubles.'"

**Strengths:** Your flashback technique works well to show Mara's background. The grandmother's wise words connect nicely to the present situation.

**Weakness: Confusing transition** → The shift from present to past happens too suddenly with "a faint image flickered." Readers might get lost about when things are happening. The sentence "The brief vision, triggered by the storm's familiar sounds and scents, brought sudden clarity to her confused mind" feels awkward and unclear.

**Exemplar:** *Suddenly, the storm's smell reminded Mara of something from long ago. She remembered being seven years old, standing on her grandmother's porch during a similar storm.*

**#3** - Ending: "Her speech, carried with honesty and rooted in memory, drew people back to her side... Today Mara is the spark to the fire that burnt out all darkness."

**Strengths:** Your ending shows character growth as Mara finds courage. The idea that the storm becomes her ally is creative.

**Weakness: Vague resolution** → You don't explain what Mara actually says in her speech or how it connects to "inequality in the world" that you mentioned earlier. The final sentence "Today

Mara is the spark to the fire that burnt out all darkness" sounds nice but doesn't make clear sense with the rest of the story.

**Exemplar:** *"Friends, just like this storm will pass, so can the unfair treatment in our town. We can work together to make things better for everyone," Mara called out, her voice growing stronger with each word.*

■ Your piece shows good creative thinking with its storm setting and character development. However, the story needs clearer connections between its parts. The inequality theme you mention early on disappears and doesn't connect to Mara's final speech. Additionally, your readers need more specific details about what Mara wants to change and how her speech addresses these problems. Your writing would be stronger if you showed us exactly what Mara says rather than just telling us it was honest and powerful. Also, the ending needs to be more realistic - one speech probably wouldn't solve all darkness in the world. Focus on making smaller, clearer connections between Mara's goals, her memories, and her actions.

---

**Score: 41/50**

---

## **Section 2:**

### **A Daring Speech**

The first crash of thunder silenced the crowd. In that moment, every cheer and whispered conversation vanished, swallowed and dimmed by the sky's booming voice. Lightning shook light poles and hearts like it owned them.

~~That's when the wind surged into chaos.~~ [The wind then surged into chaos.] Rain pounded the plaza like drumming fists. The crowd scattered. Vendors abandoned their stalls. Mara stood there frozen as the storm took her chance away. Her goal was to deliver a small speech at the town gathering, but all hope ~~has~~ [had] collapsed under the storm's power. This was her only chance to do something about it. [—] ~~About~~ [about] inequality in the world. Without this ~~only~~ chance, Mara couldn't do anything about it. No one could do anything about it. #1

As a gust flung water into her face, a faint image flickered. A flash of sea breeze, of childhood summers. She was seven years old, watching the angry storms roll off her grandmother's porch. Wind whispered secrets past her ear as Mara's eyes lit up at every strike of lightning. She saw her grandmother's hand resting on her shoulder while thunder cracked overhead. That time, fear had gripped her until Grandma whispered, "The storm passes, dear. So do the troubles."

The brief vision, triggered by the storm's familiar sounds and scents, brought sudden clarity to her confused mind. #2

Snapping back, Mara inhaled a lungful of storm-laced air. ~~She realized [realised] her task wasn't ruined, [;]~~ it was transformed. Instead of timidly calling people back under cover, she raised her voice, letting it carry across the storm-rattled square.

"Friends! This storm reminds us how quickly calm can flee, but it also shows us how power returns. Stand with me!"

Her speech, carried with honesty and rooted in memory, drew people back to her side. The storm almost seemed like it was listening. Everyone clapped, [at] her daring bravery ~~leading~~ [in leading] a speech. Today Mara is the spark to the fire that burnt out all darkness. #3