

Section 1

#1 - Opening paragraph: *"The first crash of thunder silenced the crowd. A million faces turned to scared confusion, and the stadium went from silent to complete chaos."*

Strengths: Your opening creates immediate tension and draws readers into the scene. The contrast between silence and chaos effectively captures the dramatic shift in atmosphere.

Weakness: Logical inconsistency → Your writing states the crowd was "silenced" but then describes them going from "silent to complete chaos," which creates confusion about the sequence of events. The phrase "scared confusion" is also grammatically awkward, as fear and confusion are different emotional states that need clearer connection.

Exemplar: *The first crash of thunder silenced the crowd momentarily, before a million faces turned towards the sky in frightened bewilderment.*

#2 - Lightning description: *"A static explosion occurred as sparks of electricity rose further into the air like balloons."*

Strengths: Your use of the simile "like balloons" creates an interesting visual image. The sensory detail of "static explosion" helps readers experience the scene.

Weakness: Scientific implausibility → Electricity doesn't behave as described in your writing. Lightning sparks don't rise into the air like balloons, as electricity follows the path of least resistance downward. This description undermines the believability of your scene.

Exemplar: *A static explosion crackled across the ground as sparks of electricity danced briefly before fading into the wet earth.*

#3 - Character revelation: *"She checked it twice. Then three times. Was she dreaming? On the paper was a short letter."*

Strengths: Your short, punchy sentences create suspense and mirror Ellen's disbelief effectively. The rhetorical question engages readers in Ellen's emotional state.

Weakness: Underdeveloped plot revelation → The discovery of the letter feels rushed and lacks proper build-up. Your writing jumps too quickly to the revelation without giving readers time to process Ellen's emotions or the significance of finding the crystal.

Exemplar: *She stared at the paper in disbelief, her hands trembling as she read the words again. Could this really be meant for her?*

■ Your piece demonstrates strong creative imagination and maintains reader engagement throughout the storm sequence. The fantasy elements blend well with the realistic setting of a rugby stadium. However, your writing would benefit from more careful attention to logical consistency and clearer cause-and-effect relationships between events. Additionally, your character development needs strengthening, particularly in showing Ellen's emotional journey rather than simply stating her actions. Consider expanding on Ellen's thoughts and feelings when she discovers the crystal and reads the letter. Also, work on smoother transitions between scenes to help readers follow the story more easily. Your dialogue and descriptive passages show promise, but focus on making each plot point feel more earned and believable within your story world.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2

#1 The first crash of thunder silenced the crowd. A million faces turned to ~~seared confusion~~ [frightened bewilderment], and the stadium went from ~~silent to complete chaos~~ [momentary silence to utter chaos]. This was supposed to be an exciting rugby game. Suddenly, the audience ~~was~~ [became] the players, tackling each other and running for the exit. The smell of petrichor filled the giant stadium as a silver streak of light passed through the clouds and raced to the ground, then crashed into the damp, soggy grass below. ~~A static explosion occurred as sparks of electricity rose further into the air like balloons.~~ [A static explosion crackled across the ground as electricity danced briefly along the wet surface.] Not long after, another bolt came, splitting through the sky, and like the end of a crowded concert, even more people scrambled to find their belongings, while the thunder rumbled angrily like the bang of a timpani. ~~The piano seemed to follow with a dissonant chord~~ [The sound seemed to echo with discordant notes], as the lightning had reached the stadium, and a concrete part fell off like a ~~sizable~~ [sizeable] cookie crumb. With a drenched jacket and a weighty backpack in hand, Ellen frantically looked around for that black crystal. 'That one,' she thought, 'the one that that stupid merchant gave me.' Even though it had been barely one hour, she could not find anywhere in her head what that merchant looked like. All she could remember was that he sat at the giant entrance among the other shops nearby at a creaky wooden table with a tiny crystal in his wrinkled hands.

#2 The raging storm did not slow down for Ellen. On the contrary, it continued its rampage, aiming for the food court on the opposite side of the stadium. At this point, almost half of the fences around the stadium had been completely decimated and had transformed into useless chunks of concrete and metal, planted inside the moist soil. And yet here Ellen was, checking

every single seat in hopes that the crystal was there. ~~And yet it had disappeared, like a ghost vanishing into thin air.~~ [But it had vanished completely, as if it had never existed.] Then, lightning struck from the skies again, illuminating the bottom row of the seats for a millisecond, but she saw it. The crystal, just rolling lifelessly on a soaking jersey that had been left behind. She didn't waste a single second. She sprinted to the bottom and quickly yanked the crystal from its hiding place in the middle of two seats. It was cracked open, and there was a wrinkled paper, dry as a bone, in the centre of the storm. It was glowing with a strange purple ~~through what seemed like cracks on the side of it~~ [light emanating from the cracks along its surface]. Carefully, Ellen flipped it.

#3 She checked it twice. Then three times. Was she dreaming? On the paper was a short letter.

Dear Mother,

It's almost too late to stop it. Someday, the storm's going to come for us. You HAVE to give that crystal to Ellen. Tell her everything. Why we left her, why we need her to use this power. Though remember, DON'T TELL JAYDEN. All he wants is money, because that thing sells for a lot.

From Jacob

She looked at the black crystal in her hands again, then thought about that merchant. What was going on?