

Section 1:

#1 (Opening paragraph - thunder and crowd reaction) **Strengths:** Your opening creates immediate atmosphere with strong sensory details like "the first clap of thunder" and "rain pounded the stadium walls." The musical metaphor comparing the scene to an orchestra works well to show how everyone moved together.

Weakness: Unclear transitions → Your writing jumps between ideas without smooth connections. The sentence "Time stood still. Like an orchestra perfectly in sync, the crowd's eyes turned to the sky" doesn't flow naturally because you haven't explained how time stopping connects to the orchestra comparison.

Exemplar: *After the thunder silenced the crowd, time seemed to freeze. Then, like musicians following a conductor, every person slowly turned their eyes to the sky.*

#2 (Kate's panic and evacuation scene) **Strengths:** You show Kate's emotions effectively through her actions like "clutching the microphone" and her dialogue creates urgency. The description of her "pale face" lit by lightning adds visual impact.

Weakness: Repetitive dialogue structure → You use too many similar sentence patterns for Kate's speech. "Evacuate! Evacuate now!" and "Get out of there now! It's not safe!" both follow the same urgent command pattern, making the dialogue feel repetitive rather than building tension.

Exemplar: *"Everyone needs to leave immediately!" Kate shouted. Her voice cracked as she gripped the microphone tighter. "The building isn't safe!"*

#3 (Final resolution with the parchment) **Strengths:** You create a satisfying ending where Kate solves the problem by destroying the parchment. The description of the storm calming down gives a clear sense of resolution.

Weakness: Rushed character development → Kate's realisation and solution happen too quickly without enough explanation. You write "She didn't know how much of that was true" but then immediately she finds the parchment and knows exactly what to do, which doesn't give readers time to understand her thinking.

Exemplar: *Kate stared at the glowing microphone, remembering her great-great-great-grandmother's story. Slowly, she understood what she needed to do. The parchment had to be destroyed, but how?*

■ Your piece tells an exciting story with magical elements that will interest readers. The main problem is that important events happen too quickly without enough explanation. You need to slow down and help readers understand how Kate figured out she was related to the witch and how she knew destroying the parchment would work. Additionally, some parts of your story need clearer connections between ideas. For example, when Kate remembers the curse, you should explain this memory better so readers understand what's happening. Also, consider adding more details about why the friendship Kate mentions is important to stopping the storm, since this idea appears suddenly. Furthermore, you could improve the ending by showing more of Kate's emotions and thoughts as she makes her brave decision. Your vocabulary choices are strong, so focus on making the story flow more smoothly from one event to the next.

Overall Score: 45/50

Section 2:

#1 The first clap of thunder silenced the crowd like a loud note from a tuba, stopping every cheer, clap, ~~even~~ [and even] the beating of hearts. Time stood still. Like an orchestra perfectly in sync, the crowd's eyes turned to the sky as lightning flashed, ripping through the sky. The sky, which ~~used to be~~ [had been] sunny and a [of] light blue, transformed into a mysterious shade of grey. Rain pounded the stadium walls~ [like] a timpani.

#2 "Evacuate! Evacuate now!" hollered Kate. Her pale face and anxious expression ~~was~~ [were] illuminated in the sudden spark of lightning, casting an eerie blue shadow. She shrieked with panic as part of the stadium cascaded down, crumbling away. Reaching her hand out to clutch the microphone, she yelped [.] "Get out of there now! It's not safe!" Her mind drifted away from the moment~ [as] and she lapsed back to the time when the curse had been delivered and sealed.

"No, not now," she mumbled as she fell into darkness, hearing the raindrops clatter onto the floor next to her head~ [and] onto her bedraggled brown hair.

Ivy's crooked teeth broke into an abhorrent grin. Bony fingers ~~clutch~~ [clutched] the quill. 'Ivy' ~~is~~ [was] written in curling letters, the black ink settling into the white parchment.

"The deal is sealed. Once this parchment endures the thousandth storm, it shall bring a tempest capable of destroying everything without hesitation. I have added words of binding, which mean this paper can never be found or destroyed. However, you must give me my payment, as I believe I have done my part quite well."

"Of course, that would only be beneficial for both of us," chuckled Tim unpleasantly. "You may reach into this bag and pick out five handfuls of treasure. Only then will I leave."

Ivy reached her frighteningly gaunt arm into the bag, closing her eyes as requested.

"They... wriggle quite a lot, don't they?" proclaimed Ivy. Tim nodded. After the witch was done, Tim cackled.

"You did fall for it! A girl will now try to save them all, but will not succeed. Your great-great-great-granddaughter, Ivy." And with that, Tim took the parchment with him and left Ivy with five handfuls of mice and snakes. His wings flapped with pride and wretched happiness.

#3 Gasping back to reality, Kate felt her world crumble. She was the ~~daughter~~ [descendant] of a witch. With a trembling hand, she ~~closed her hand around~~ [grasped] the microphone, feeling like her flame of hope had dwindled to embers.

"Please listen," she said in a choked voice. Her eyes welled up with tears.

"This storm can destroy the world. It was created by a warlock with powerful magic. Only our friendship can stop it." She didn't know how much of that was true, but she doubted anyone would listen anyway. ~~But her~~ [However, the] microphone glowed with power, shifting through crimson to lilac all the way to verdant green. Cautiously, she took it off the stand, and there it was [—] ~~The~~ [the] yellowed parchment written decades ago[,] ~~The~~ [the] scroll that caused this fiasco [,] ~~The~~ [the] trinket that could end all this.

Kate stared at the crowd, who gaped back at her. ~~The paper in her hands, she~~ [Holding the paper, she] prepared to rip it. Her heart sank as she was overcome with a realisation~ [:] 'Never be found or destroyed'. Well, I could find it, she thought. Let's see if it can be destroyed.

As she prepared to destroy it, hail battered her face and hair. Now. Do it now. And with that, she flung the parchment out into the eye of the storm. It lit up with an unearthly glow, shining bright in the obsidian sky. Suddenly, forked lightning zapped it into cinders, shattering the rainbow of colours. The fierce winds that whistled around her ears had calmed into a warm breeze. The heavy raindrops that had ~~peltered~~ [pelted] the stadium turned into puddles on the ground. The lightning was gone. Kate smiled, her cheeks rosy and pink. She had defeated the storm. "Thank you, Ivy. You did some bad things, and some good things, and this storm wouldn't be here if you didn't conjure it, but since you did, thank you for helping me find the answer," Kate said, bowing her head.