

Section 1:

#1 Early one morning, I was so excited as I was looking forward to busking at Sydney Central train station, playing a challenging song called "Symphony No.5" by Ludwig van Beethoven, in front of all the commuters. As the train was whooshing through the coast to Sydney, I realised that I left my violin chin rest at home in Wollongong! Disappointed, I had to hop off the train at the next station and caught another train back home. This had caused a huge delay to my original plan!

Strengths:

- You've established a clear setting with specific locations (Sydney Central, Wollongong) that creates a sense of place.
- Your excitement and disappointment are effectively conveyed, showing emotional range.

Weakness: Underdeveloped conflict → While you mention forgetting your chin rest, you don't fully explore the significance of this problem for a violinist. The tension could be heightened by explaining why the chin rest is essential for your performance. The phrase "This had caused a huge delay" tells rather than shows the impact of the setback.

Exemplar: *I realised with horror that I'd left my violin chin rest at home in Wollongong! Without it, playing Beethoven's challenging piece would be nearly impossible, as the chin rest helps me hold the violin properly during the difficult passages.*

#2 After wasting so much time, I finally arrived in Sydney in the middle of the day and was so eager, but nervous, to perform. With my eyes closed, I started playing as though I was in my living room at home. The sound of footsteps began to fade away and as I slowly peeked through my eyes, I noticed everyone staring at me, like bees attracted to honey!

Strengths:

- You capture the contrast between nervousness and eagerness well.
- The sensory detail of closing your eyes and hearing footsteps fade shows your immersion in music.

Weakness: Limited sensory description → Your writing would benefit from more sensory details about the performance. The simile "like bees attracted to honey" is a good start, but you could add more about how the music sounded, what the station atmosphere was like, or how your body felt while playing. The phrase "peeked through my eyes" could be more precise.

Exemplar: *With my eyes closed, I drew my bow across the strings, filling the bustling station with Beethoven's powerful notes. When I dared to open my eyes slightly, I discovered a growing crowd of commuters had stopped in their tracks, watching me with expressions of wonder.*

#3 At the end of the song, everyone present, including the station captain, cheered and clapped! More shockingly, I saw a lot of fifty-dollar notes in my violin case. That was probably the most money I would ever earn in three and a half minutes!

Strengths:

- You include a specific detail about the currency (fifty-dollar notes) which makes the scene vivid.
- The conclusion provides a satisfying payoff to your earlier setbacks.

Weakness: Rushed resolution → The ending feels rushed and could benefit from more emotional reflection. How did this success make you feel after all the trouble earlier? The phrase "station captain" is vague and might not be the correct term. You mention "three and a half minutes" but don't explain how you know the exact timing.

Exemplar: *When I played the final note, the crowd erupted in applause—even the station manager stepped out of his office to join in! Looking down at my violin case, I gasped at the sight of several fifty-dollar notes nestled among the coins. My heart swelled with pride knowing that despite the morning's disaster, those precious minutes of music had touched so many people.*

■ Your piece tells an interesting story about perseverance and the power of music to captivate an audience. The narrative has a clear beginning, middle, and end, which creates a satisfying structure. However, you could improve the emotional depth by showing more of your thoughts and feelings throughout the experience. For example, in paragraph one, you could share more about why you chose Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 and what it means to you personally. Additionally, in paragraph two, try including more details about the atmosphere in the train station and how it changed as you played. You might also expand on your technique while playing the violin to help readers picture your performance more clearly. Finally, consider adding a brief reflection at the end about what you learned from this experience or how it changed your perspective on busking. These additions would make your readers feel more connected to your story and help them share in your triumph.

Overall score: 38/50

Section 2:

Early one morning, I was so excited as I was looking forward to busking at Sydney Central train station, playing a challenging song called "Symphony No.5" by Ludwig van Beethoven, in front of all

the commuters. As the train was whooshing through the coast to Sydney, I realised that I left my violin chin rest at home in Wollongong! Disappointed, I had to hop off the train at the next station and caught another train back home. ~~This had caused~~ [This caused] a huge delay to my original plan!

~~After wasting so much time, I finally arrived in Sydney in the middle of the day and was so eager, but nervous, to perform.~~ [After the unexpected journey back and forth, I finally arrived in Sydney by midday, eager yet nervous to perform.] With my eyes closed, I started playing as though I was in my living room at home. The sound of footsteps began to fade away and as I slowly ~~pecked through my eyes~~ [opened my eyes slightly], I noticed everyone staring at me, like bees attracted to honey!

At the end of the song, everyone present, including the ~~station captain~~ [station manager], cheered and clapped! More shockingly, I saw a lot of fifty-dollar notes in my violin case. That was probably the most money I would ever earn in three and a half minutes!