

Section 1

#1 Opening paragraph: "My hand trembled with a mixed feeling of excitement and nervousness as I reached for the golden invitation that lay motionless on the dead countertop. The silver lining caught sunlight in its lacing, beams spreading through the parchment paper."

Strengths: Your opening creates immediate engagement through sensory details like the trembling hand and sunlight catching the silver lining. The physical description of the invitation helps readers visualise the scene clearly.

Weakness: Confusing word choices → The phrase "dead countertop" doesn't make clear sense, and "silver lining caught sunlight in its lacing" creates unclear imagery. These word combinations confuse readers rather than helping them understand what's happening.

Exemplar: *The invitation rested quietly on the kitchen counter, its silver edges glinting in the morning sunlight.*

#2 Middle section: "On the day of the slumber party, I nervously tapped my fingers on my jeans in a repetitive pattern. My creaky bed light reflected me, flickering on and off, the light casting a shadow on my face."

Strengths: You effectively show nervousness through the finger-tapping action rather than just telling readers about it. The flickering light creates atmosphere.

Weakness: Unclear sentence structure → The sentence "My creaky bed light reflected me, flickering on and off" doesn't work grammatically because lights don't reflect people. This makes the description confusing to follow.

Exemplar: *The bedside lamp flickered on and off, casting shadows across my worried face.*

#3 Final paragraph: "When we reached Alessia's house, I didn't even notice my sweaty palms and the knot in my stomach."

Strengths: Your physical descriptions of nervousness (sweaty palms, knot in stomach) help readers feel the character's emotions. The homesickness theme connects well to the sleepover setting.

Weakness: Logic problem → If the character "didn't even notice" her sweaty palms and stomach knot, she wouldn't be able to tell readers about them. This creates confusion about what the character actually experiences.

Exemplar: *When we reached Alessia's house, my palms were sweaty and my stomach felt tight with nerves.*

■ Your piece shows strong emotional connection to the sleepover experience that many readers will relate to. The nervousness and excitement come through clearly, making your character feel real. However, your writing needs clearer word choices and sentence structures to help readers follow the story smoothly. Focus on making sure each sentence makes logical sense when you read it aloud. Also, work on connecting your ideas better between paragraphs - each new paragraph should flow naturally from the previous one. Additionally, some sentences try to do too much at once, which makes them hard to understand. Try breaking longer, complex sentences into shorter, clearer ones. Your story has good emotional depth, but improving the technical clarity will help readers enjoy it much more.

Score: 39/50

Section 2

~~#1 My hand trembled with a mixed feeling of excitement and nervousness~~ [My hand trembled with excitement and nervousness] as I reached for the golden invitation that lay ~~motionless~~ [still] on the ~~dead~~ [kitchen] countertop. ~~The silver lining caught sunlight in its lacing, beams spreading through the parchment paper.~~ [The silver edges caught the sunlight, with beams of light spreading across the parchment paper.]

'Dear Lilith,' I read aloud. 'Would you like to come to my slumber party? We would love to have you there! Address: 30 Main Street Road, 6210.' That note from my best ~~friend~~ [mate] was the first sleepover I had ever been invited to. My heart pounded loudly in my chest – any moment now it would leap out, I was sure of it. My ~~sport~~ [sports] bag[,] filled with my linen pyjamas, toiletries, and secretly, my teddy bear, had been ~~laying~~ [lying] there, packed from several nights before. I had a million ~~thoughts~~ [and] doubts in my head. What if I spilt something? What if I got homesick? What if everyone laughs at my soft toy? What if...?

~~#2 On the day of the slumber party, I nervously tapped my fingers on my jeans in a repetitive pattern. My creaky bed light reflected me, flickering on and off, the light casting a shadow on my face.~~ [My creaky bedside lamp flickered on and off, casting shadows across my face.]

'It's time, sweetcakes,' my mother said abruptly. My cheeks flushed a bright shade of red.

'Mum! Don't call me that!' I protested, quickly grabbing my duffel bag [] and following my mother to her Tesla.

She chuckled [] and muttered something under her breath that sounded a lot like[,] 'children these days'; [,] ~~and~~ [And] we drove to my best ~~friend~~, [mate] Alessia []s house. On the car ride there, I could vividly hear a ringing noise in my ear. The intrusive thoughts returned. What if I get nightmares? What if I can't sleep? What if...?

~~#3 When we reached Alessia's house, I didn't even notice my sweaty palms and the knot in my stomach.~~ [When we reached Alessia's house, my palms were sweaty and there was a tight knot in my stomach.]

'Lily!' I heard a familiar voice squeal excitedly. 'You came!' I suddenly felt warm arms wrap around me. I didn't know what else to do, so I just awkwardly patted her back. When she pulled away, I could even see her beauty spot under her eye. This close proximity – I was not very used to ~~with~~ [to being so close to] my friends. She pulled me inside her house before I could stop her. It was ~~cozy~~ [cosy] in a way – but quite simple. There was a crackling fireplace [,] ★ [a] coffee table [, and] ★ [a] warm smell of cookies. They were all the basic things in a household – but that was enough to remind me of my own house. The knot in my stomach tightened – ah, yes, the dreaded feeling of homesickness. This was going to be a long, long night.