

Section 1:

#1 "The roar of the crowd rolled across the stands like thunder, but she didn't seem to hear it. Sitting near the end of the bench, she balanced a small notebook on her knees, the pages catching the yellow glow of the floodlights."

Strengths: Your opening creates strong contrast between the loud environment and the character's quiet focus. The visual detail of pages catching floodlight creates atmosphere.

Weakness: Limited character depth → Your character remains quite mysterious throughout this section. While the contrast between her quietness and the crowd's noise is interesting, you haven't given readers enough information about who she is or why she's writing. The phrase "she didn't seem to hear it" tells us what she's not doing, but doesn't reveal her thoughts or motivations.

Exemplar: *She blocked out the crowd's roar, her mind focused entirely on capturing the perfect words in her notebook.*

#2 "Someone from the row behind shouted a player's name, and she paused to watch the echo ripple through the crowd. Her eyes lingered on the marching band setting up at the corner, the silver of a trumpet flashing in the light."

Strengths: Your use of sensory details like the trumpet's silver flash adds richness. You show how she notices different elements around her.

Weakness: Unclear purpose → Your writing doesn't explain why she's observing these specific details or how they connect to her writing. The phrase "watch the echo ripple through the crowd" is poetic but unclear - echoes don't visually ripple. You need to make clearer connections between what she observes and why it matters to her story.

Exemplar: *She watched how the player's name spread excitement through the crowd, then quickly wrote down the moment to use in her story later.*

#3 "When a goal was scored and the stands shook with stamping feet, she leaned back and watched the scoreboard change, her mouth tilting into the smallest smile. Then, with her head bent low, she began to write faster, as though the noise and colour around her had unlocked something only she could see."

Strengths: Your ending sentence creates intrigue about her creative process. The physical action of writing faster shows her inspiration.

Weakness: Vague conclusion → Your final phrase "unlocked something only she could see" doesn't give readers concrete understanding of what she's discovered or written about. While mystery can be effective, you need to give readers more substance about her actual thoughts or what she's creating in her notebook.

Exemplar: *The crowd's celebration sparked a new idea for her character, and she wrote quickly to capture the emotions she'd witnessed.*

■ Your piece captures a lovely moment of quiet observation within a busy setting. The contrast between the noisy sports environment and your character's peaceful writing creates an interesting dynamic. However, your writing needs more substance about who this person is and what she's actually thinking or writing about. You spend most of your time describing what she looks like from the outside, but readers need to understand her inner world too. Additionally, you could strengthen your piece by showing clearer connections between what she observes and how it affects her writing. Also, some of your descriptions need to be more precise - phrases like "watch the echo ripple" don't make clear sense. Furthermore, your character's motivations remain unclear throughout the piece, which makes it harder for readers to connect with her story.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

#1 The roar of the crowd rolled across the stands like thunder, but she didn't seem to hear it. Sitting near the end of the bench, she balanced a small notebook on her knees, the pages catching the yellow glow of the floodlights.

#2 Every now and then she looked up, not at the field, but at the players' boots kicking up little clouds of dust. Her pen moved quickly, stopping only when a cheer exploded around her. She would blink, smile faintly as if remembering where she was, then bend back over the page. A gust of wind flicked her hair across her face; she tucked it behind her ear in a single neat motion, careful not to lose her place.

#3 Someone from the row behind shouted a player's name, and she paused to watch the echo ripple through the crowd. Her eyes lingered on the marching band setting up at the corner, the silver of a trumpet flashing in the light. She wrote again, her fingers tightening on the pen, before flipping to a fresh page.

When a goal was scored and the stands shook with stamping feet, she leaned back and watched the scoreboard change, her mouth tilting into the smallest smile. Then, with her head bent low,

she began to write faster, as though the noise and ~~colour~~ [color] around her had unlocked something only she could see.