

## Section 1:

**#1** - Opening paragraphs (first two paragraphs) Strengths: Your opening creates immediate tension by showing Amelia's worry about Jessica's reaction, which draws readers in straight away. The setting details about the dance academy and barre help establish the context clearly.

Weakness: Unclear connection → The plant metaphor with "its leaves dry, hunched towards the ground" appears suddenly without clear connection to the story. It feels out of place and confuses the reader about why you're describing a plant when the focus should be on Jessica's injury.

Exemplar: *"But Amelia remained unconvinced, noticing how Jessica favoured her left foot when she thought no one was looking."*

**#2** - Middle section (paragraphs about the decision and hospital visit) Strengths: Your writing shows Amelia's difficult choice between friendship and doing the right thing, which creates good conflict. The hospital scene effectively shows how hurt Jessica feels through her accusation about wanting the lead role.

Weakness: Rushed dialogue → The conversation between Amelia and Jessica in the hospital feels too quick and doesn't give enough detail about their emotions. Jessica's angry response and Amelia's defence need more development to help readers understand their feelings better.

Exemplar: *"Amelia took a deep breath before speaking. 'Jessica, I know you're angry with me, but I couldn't watch you hurt yourself anymore. Your ankle was getting worse each day, and I was scared you might never dance again if we didn't get help.'"*

**#3** - Ending section (reconciliation and plant reference) Strengths: Your resolution shows both characters growing and learning, with Jessica understanding Amelia's motives and suggesting they share the lead role. This creates a satisfying ending where friendship wins.

Weakness: Forced symbolism → The plant appearing again at the end with "leaves slowly unfurled, standing up straighter" feels pushed into the story without natural connection. Readers might not understand why the plant matters or how it relates to the friendship.

Exemplar: *"In the weeks that followed, both girls discovered that sharing their challenges made them stronger dancers and better friends."*

■ Your story tackles an important theme about friendship and making difficult choices, which many readers can relate to. The main conflict between loyalty and responsibility creates good tension throughout your piece. However, your writing would benefit from developing the emotional depth of your characters more fully. You could show more of what Amelia and Jessica are thinking and feeling during key moments, especially during their argument at the hospital. Additionally, the plant

metaphor needs clearer connection to your story's themes, or you might consider removing it entirely and focusing on the human relationships instead. Also, your dialogue could be expanded to sound more natural and show the characters' personalities better. The pacing moves quite quickly through important events, so slowing down during emotional scenes would help readers connect more deeply with your characters' experiences.

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**Overall Score: 44/50**

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## Section 2:

### The Truth Hurts

#1 Amelia pushed her way through the throng of people at the crossing, wincing at the thought of Jessica's reaction.

#1 Amelia and Jessica were best friends [;] and recently [;] Amelia had noticed her limping around. One afternoon, unable to bear the charade any longer, Amelia cornered Jessica by the barre. "What's going on, Jess?" she asked, her voice low. Jessica brushed it off [with] a casual shrug about a minor ache. But Amelia remained unconvinced [.] ~~her gaze flickering towards a plant in the corner, its leaves dry, hunched towards the ground.~~ [Her instincts told her something was seriously wrong.]

Finally, the dam broke. Jessica confessed, tears welling in her eyes, that the relentless training had twisted her ankle. The academy's demanding schedule, combined with her fear of losing her coveted lead role, had pushed her to ignore the injury [and] to cover it up [;] day after day.

#2 Amelia's mind raced, torn between her loyalty to Jessica and the horrifying implications of her friend's self-destructive drive. Telling their coach would devastate Jessica, forcing her off the stage she so adored. But ignoring it could lead to irreversible damage, shattering Jessica's career entirely. The decision was agonising, a brutal struggle between friendship and responsibility. Finally, with a deep, shaky breath, Amelia chose the latter. It was a truth that would sting, but it was also the only path to healing.

#2 The following day, the academy buzzed with hushed whispers. Jessica had been taken to the hospital. Her 'small twist' had, under the strain of her strenuous training, become a severe fracture. When Amelia visited her in the sterile quiet of the hospital room, Jessica's eyes, usually so warm, were sharp with accusation.

"You just want my role, don't you?" Jessica spat, her voice laced with pain and betrayal.

Amelia flinched [,] but held her gaze. "No, of course not. I did it for your good, not mine. By ignoring it, the injury could've become far worse [,] and resulted ~~horribly~~ [in permanent damage]." The words felt hollow in the cold room, even though she knew they were true. Jessica turned away, silent.

Amelia left the hospital [,] ~~the sting of Jessica's words echoing in her ears~~ [with Jessica's harsh words still ringing in her mind]. She returned an hour later. She sat beside Jessica's bed, opening ~~the device~~ [her phone] to show her videos of the intricate new dances they had learned that week. She talked about the challenges, the breakthroughs, the sheer joy of the movement. Still, Jessica remained silent.

**#3** Weeks later, when Jessica finally returned to practice, limping slightly but with ~~a newfound clarity in her eyes~~ [newfound understanding], she walked directly to Amelia.

"I shouldn't have thrown unjust accusations at you," Jessica said, her voice soft. "I understand now. You were doing it for me."

The two friends embraced [,] ~~a shared relief washing over them~~ [both feeling the weight of their conflict finally lifting]. Later that day, Jessica approached their coach. "Excuse me," she began [,] "I have a proposal. There shouldn't be just one lead dancer. Amelia and I... we're stronger together. I believe there should be two." Jessica glanced at Amelia [,] ~~a knowing smile passing between them~~ [and they exchanged understanding smiles]. ~~In the corner of the room, the plant's leaves were slowly unfurled, standing up straighter.~~ [Their friendship had emerged stronger than ever, built on honesty and trust.]