

### Section 1:

**#1** "Tim's hand smeared on the crinkled envelope from the mailbox, did John really want to invite him to a sleepover? A week in advance, Tim's suitcase had been filled to the brim, his sleeping bag, pillow, even a stuffed toy for emergencies."

**Strengths:** Your piece shows Tim's excitement and preparation well through specific details like the packed suitcase. You create a clear sense of anticipation about the sleepover invitation.

**Weakness:** Unclear sentence structure → The opening sentence confuses readers because "Tim's hand smeared on the crinkled envelope" doesn't make sense. Also, the connection between the envelope and his preparation isn't clear, making it hard to follow your ideas.

**Exemplar:** *Tim's sweaty hand left marks on the crinkled envelope as he read it again - did John really want to invite him to a sleepover?*

**#2** "The doorway of dread straddled upon him and John's mum's face appeared through the cracks of the door. The set up had changed, the hallway filled with photo frames of John and his family, nothing made him feel like he could fit in; he was an outcast."

**Strengths:** You capture Tim's nervous feelings effectively and show how the family photos make him feel different. Your word choice "outcast" is strong and clear.

**Weakness:** Mixed metaphors and unclear meaning → "Doorway of dread straddled upon him" mixes two different images that don't work together. The phrase "set up had changed" is confusing because we don't know what it changed from.

**Exemplar:** *A wave of dread washed over Tim as John's mum appeared at the door. The hallway was filled with family photos that reminded him he was the outsider.*

**#3** "The clock's second hand ticked as Tim's eyes followed, hypnotised and intrigued by the clicking noise. John's shaky breathing, ants bickering for the leftover cookie crumbs on the floor, even the tap was leaking deafeningly."

**Strengths:** Your writing creates a vivid sensory experience with sounds like ticking, breathing, and dripping. You show Tim's anxious state through these small details.

**Weakness:** Sentence fragments and illogical details → "John's shaky breathing, ants bickering for the leftover cookie crumbs" isn't a complete sentence. Also, ants don't "bicker" and a dripping tap can't be "deafeningly" loud, which makes your descriptions unrealistic.

**Exemplar:** *Tim listened to the clock ticking, John's quiet breathing, and ants scurrying across cookie crumbs on the floor. Even the gentle drip of the tap seemed loud in the silence.*

■ Your piece shows good understanding of Tim's anxiety and nervousness about the sleepover. You include specific details that help readers picture the scene, like the packed suitcase and family photos. However, your writing would be stronger if you focused on making your sentences clearer and easier to follow. Many of your sentences are confusing because they mix different ideas or use words in ways that don't make sense. Additionally, some of your descriptions are unrealistic, like ants "bickering" or a tap being "deafeningly" loud. Also, you could improve by connecting your ideas better - readers need to understand how one sentence relates to the next. Try reading each sentence aloud to check if it makes sense on its own. Furthermore, make sure each paragraph focuses on one main idea to help your story flow more smoothly.

---

**Overall Score: 39/50**

---

## Section 2:

~~Tim's hand smeared on the crinkled envelope from the mailbox~~ [Tim's sweaty hand left smudges on the crinkled envelope from the mailbox], did John really want to invite him to a sleepover? A week in advance, Tim's suitcase had been filled to the brim ; [with] his sleeping bag, pillow, even a stuffed toy for emergencies. The view was different from anything he was used to. His mum suddenly opened the car door, stopping him from counting the number of white cars he saw. ~~The doorway of dread straddled upon him~~ [Dread filled him as he approached the doorway] and John's mum's face appeared through the cracks of the door. #1

~~The set up had changed, the~~ [The] hallway ~~filled~~ [was filled] with photo frames of John and his family [.] ~~nothing~~ [Nothing] made him feel like he could fit in; he was an outcast. The floor above Tim unexpectedly began to rumble, gradually moving ~~onto~~ [down to] the steps. A familiar shadow from school pounced and hopped around everywhere, it [, and] the sky started to brighten up until Tim's mum's hand slowly waved goodbye, and the door shut. He set up the sleeping bag, hiding the stuffed toy beneath his towel. #2

The clock's second hand ticked as Tim's eyes followed, hypnotised and intrigued by the clicking noise. ~~John's shaky breathing, ants bickering for the leftover cookie crumbs on the floor, even the tap was leaking deafeningly.~~ [Tim could hear John's shaky breathing, ants scurrying across leftover cookie crumbs on the floor, and even the tap leaking steadily.] Tim's heart throbbed against his ribcage. Anxiety rolled up and around like a bowling ball, perfectly hitting all ten of

his thought bubbles that now ~~reined~~ [reigned over] his brain. If he were to stay still, would time go faster? Yet minutes felt like hours, and all hope fell into a dark abyss. #3