

### Section 1:

**#1** - Opening paragraph: "Tom's heart pounded like a drum. His finger hovered over the unread message Tyler sent him this morning..."

**Strengths:** Your opening creates immediate tension and draws readers into Tom's nervousness. The simple, clear sentences help establish the mood effectively.

**Weakness: Inconsistent narrative flow** → Your writing jumps between different moments without smooth connections. The phrase "His finger unconsciously touched the screen, opening the message" happens too quickly after "hovered over," making the sequence feel rushed. The transition from Tom reading to "Then the words hit him" repeats the same information unnecessarily.

**Exemplar:** *Tom's heart pounded like a drum as his finger hovered over Tyler's unread message. Taking a deep breath, he tapped the screen and slowly read the words that made him smile.*

**#2** - Middle section: "Tom's mother was holding his sleepover bag in front of the car waiting for him like a prison guard..."

**Strengths:** Your use of similes like "prison guard" and "mouse when it spotted cheese" creates vivid pictures. The anxious thoughts show Tom's realistic worries about the sleepover.

**Weakness: Unclear pronoun references** → Your sentence structure becomes confusing when you use "he" and "him" without making it clear who you're referring to. In "Tom's mother was holding his sleepover bag in front of the car waiting for him like a prison guard," it's unclear whether the car or Tom's mother is waiting like a prison guard.

**Exemplar:** *Tom's mother stood by the car holding his sleepover bag, waiting patiently like a guard on duty.*

**#3** - Ending section: "Tom lay on a rock hard mattress and stared at the unfamiliar ceiling... A ray of light pierced through the darkness."

**Strengths:** Your sensory details like "rock hard mattress" and "dripping of a leaky tap" help readers feel Tom's discomfort. The contrast between his anxiety and the peaceful morning works well.

**Weakness: Abrupt scene transitions** → Your writing jumps from one moment to the next without proper bridges. The sentence "A ray of light pierced through the darkness. Tom awoke to

his mother downstairs" creates confusion because Tom was already awake, yet you write "Tom awoke."

**Exemplar:** *As morning light crept through the window, Tom heard familiar voices downstairs - his mother had arrived.*

■ Your piece tells an engaging story about a child's first sleepover experience, capturing the mix of excitement and anxiety that many young readers will recognise. The emotions feel genuine, and you've chosen relatable situations that connect with your audience. However, your narrative would benefit from smoother transitions between scenes and clearer sentence construction. Additionally, you could strengthen your story by showing more of Tom's feelings through his actions rather than simply telling us what he thinks. Consider adding more specific details about what Tom sees, hears, and feels during key moments. Also, work on connecting your paragraphs with linking words like "meanwhile," "later," or "suddenly" to help readers follow the timeline. Your ending feels rushed - expanding on Tom's relief at returning home would provide a more satisfying conclusion to his emotional journey.

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**Overall Score: 42/50**

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## Section 2:

#1 Tom's heart pounded like a drum. His finger hovered over the unread message Tyler sent him this morning. ~~Tom's finger unconsciously touched~~ [Tom unconsciously touched] the screen, opening the message to the group chat. His eyes slowly scanned the words. ~~Then the words hit him. The message said:~~ [The message read:] Hey Tom! Do you want to come over to my house this weekend? Inform your mum about this! From your pal, Tyler.

Pride swelled up in Tom's mind. ~~He is becoming~~ [He was becoming] a big kid! He eagerly answered back with a yes. He leapt up and scampered to his mother like a mouse when it spotted cheese. Soon Tom's mother received Tyler's address and put the date on the calendar with a smiley face sticker. The day arrived sooner than Tom thought it would. Suddenly a wave of anxiety washed over him as he prepared. He used hair gel to secure the singular strands of hair that were not in place. Tom borrowed his mother's moisturiser and Vaseline and fixed his crackled lips and flakey skin. He started to ~~practice~~ [practise] conversations with Tyler's parents and lines that might make Tyler's parents impressed.

#2 ~~Tom's mother was holding his sleepover bag in front of the car waiting for him like a prison guard.~~ [Tom's mother stood by the car, holding his sleepover bag and waiting like a prison guard.] Tom sat in the car. Suddenly questions and scenarios swarmed him. What if he starts

mumbling? What if Tyler's parents don't like him? What if he wets the bed? Tom could hear the jeering and the ~~rumors~~ [rumours] spread about him if he did anything embarrassing. Tom's heart skipped a beat as they pulled into Tyler's driveway. Tyler was waving wildly while whooping like he just won the lottery. Tom watched as his mother's car pulled out of the driveway and sped off. Tyler dragged him inside and they made a castle out of graham crackers, pranked Tyler's parents with a whoopee cushion and played video games. Soon it was time for bed.

**#3** Tom lay on a rock hard mattress and stared at the unfamiliar ceiling. Tyler started to drift off to sleep but Tom was huddling in the thin blanket while listening to the dripping of a leaky tap downstairs. Tom flinched as he heard the creak of a door and the yawning of Tyler's dad. As the whole house fell asleep, Tom lay awake[,] ~~Staring~~ [staring] at the window hoping that the sun would rise so he wouldn't have to endure the pain of silence any longer. ~~A ray of light pierced through the darkness. Tom awoke to his mother downstairs chatting with Tyler's mother.~~ [As morning light crept through the window, Tom heard his mother downstairs chatting with Tyler's mother.] Tom waved goodbye and ran to his mother's car. Upon arrival at home, Tom leapt onto his plush and familiar bed and fell into a deep sleep.