

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph: "The school oval was alive with chatter when the sound came—an unfamiliar buzzing, sharp and mechanical. Heads tilted skyward. It wasn't a bird, not even a helicopter. A sleek black drone streaked across the afternoon sky, its red lights blinking like watchful eyes."

Strengths: Your opening creates immediate atmosphere and tension. The vivid description "red lights blinking like watchful eyes" gives the drone an almost alive quality.

Weakness: Fragment overuse → You've used too many short, choppy sentences like "Heads tilted skyward" and "It wasn't a bird, not even a helicopter." While these can create drama, using too many makes your writing feel disconnected rather than flowing smoothly.

Exemplar: *Students looked up curiously as heads tilted skyward, searching for the source of the strange noise.*

#2 - Middle section: "The teachers called for everyone to stay back, but curiosity was stronger than caution. A circle formed around the mysterious box. No label. No writing. No clue who it was meant for."

Strengths: You show the natural human response to mystery well. The phrase "curiosity was stronger than caution" effectively captures how people behave in unusual situations.

Weakness: Underdeveloped tension → Your description of the mysterious package lacks specific details that would make readers feel the suspense more deeply. The sentences "No label. No writing. No clue who it was meant for" are too basic and don't build the mystery effectively.

Exemplar: *The package sat innocently on the grass, its plain brown wrapping giving no hint of its contents or purpose, while the strange black symbol seemed to stare back at the curious crowd.*

#3 - Conclusion: "What secrets did it hold? A gift? A warning? A trick? No one could tell. And on that ordinary school day, the oval became the centre of a mystery no one would forget."

Strengths: Your questions create suspense and engage the reader's imagination. The contrast between "ordinary school day" and the mysterious events works well.

Weakness: Rushed ending → Your conclusion feels hurried and doesn't give readers enough time to feel the full impact of the mystery. The rapid-fire questions followed by "No one could tell" ends the story too abruptly without building to a satisfying climax.

Exemplar: *As the students stood frozen in anticipation, the weight of unanswered questions hung heavy in the afternoon air, transforming their familiar school ground into something extraordinary.*

■ Your piece creates an engaging mystery that captures a reader's attention from the very beginning. The concept of a mysterious package delivered by drone is creative and would appeal to young readers. However, your writing would benefit from smoother sentence flow and deeper development of suspenseful moments. Additionally, you could strengthen your story by adding more sensory details about what the students see, hear, and feel during this unusual event. Your dialogue and character reactions feel realistic, but you could expand on the emotions and thoughts of specific students to make readers connect more with the characters. Also, try varying your sentence lengths more effectively - mix longer, flowing sentences with your shorter dramatic ones. Furthermore, your mystery element is intriguing, but developing the atmosphere more gradually would create better suspense than rushing through the events.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2:

#1 The school oval was alive with chatter when the sound came—an unfamiliar buzzing, sharp and mechanical. ~~Heads tilted skyward.~~ [Students looked up curiously as heads tilted skyward.] It wasn't a bird, not even a helicopter. A sleek black drone streaked across the afternoon sky, its red lights blinking like watchful eyes.

It didn't pass by. Instead, it circled deliberately, lowering itself until its shadow skimmed across the grass. Students dropped their footy balls, froze mid-game, and stared. Even the teachers at the sideline looked uncertain.

#2 Dangling beneath the drone was a small box. It was wrapped in plain brown paper, tied with string, and stamped with a single black symbol no one could recognise. The drone hovered for a moment, buzzing impatiently, then released the package. It landed softly on the grass. Without hesitation, the drone shot upward and vanished into the clouds.

A hush swept over the oval. Everyone stared at the package as though it might move on its own. Some students whispered that it was a prank. Others said it had to be from the government, or spies, or maybe even aliens.

The teachers called for everyone to stay back, but curiosity was stronger than caution. A circle formed around the mysterious box. ~~No label. No writing. No clue who it was meant for.~~ [The

package sat innocently on the grass, bearing no label, no writing, and no clue about its intended recipient.]

Finally, one brave student stepped forward. Every eye followed as she crouched, reaching out a trembling hand. The box sat still, silent, waiting.

#3 What secrets did it hold? A gift? A warning? A trick?

No one could tell.

And on that ordinary school day, the oval became the center of a mystery no one would forget.