

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph: "Sadie sighed, her eyes glittering like light in the dark sky. The trees around her shone with an enchanted glow as the moon descended slowly over their heads. There, in the middle of the clearing, was her most important possession. The green stem seemed to mock her with a playful tilt."

Strengths: Your atmospheric opening creates a vivid night scene that draws readers in immediately. The personification of the stem "mocking her with a playful tilt" effectively establishes the central conflict.

Weakness: Unclear scene transitions → Your writing jumps between different locations without clearly establishing where Sadie is positioned. The phrase "trees around her shone with an enchanted glow" suggests she's in a forest, but then "in the middle of the clearing" indicates an open space, creating confusion about the setting.

Exemplar: *Sadie stood in the moonlit clearing behind her house, sighing as she gazed at the green stem that seemed to mock her efforts with its stubborn refusal to grow.*

#2 - Middle section: "As the clock slowly ticked by, hope turned into desperation, and desperation grew extreme. Looking at the farmer's rows of carefully cared for sunflowers, an idea started to form in Sadie's head."

Strengths: Your progression from hope to desperation effectively shows Sadie's emotional journey. The transition into temptation feels natural and relatable.

Weakness: Vague time references → Your writing uses unclear phrases like "as the clock slowly ticked by" without specifying actual timeframes. This makes it difficult for readers to understand how much time passes between events and weakens the urgency of the approaching deadline.

Exemplar: *Over the next four days, as Sadie watched her neighbours' sunflowers tower above their fence, hope turned into desperation.*

#3 - Resolution: "The flower she had borrowed from the farmer now drooped, its petals grey and withered. The small one, in fact, was now sprouting. Golden petals wrapped around a small core, bestowing warmth to the place."

Strengths: Your symbolic contrast between the stolen withered flower and her own blooming sunflower creates a powerful visual representation of the moral lesson. The imagery of "golden petals wrapped around a small core" is particularly effective.

Weakness: Rushed character development → Your writing moves too quickly from Sadie's realisation to her complete transformation. The phrase "Suddenly, she understood" doesn't allow readers to experience her thought process or emotional journey towards this important revelation.

Exemplar: *As Sadie stared at the contrasting flowers, memories of her patient watering and weeding flooded back, and she began to understand why her own plant had finally succeeded.*

■ Your piece tells an engaging story about honesty and patience that will resonate with readers. The central message about hard work being more valuable than shortcuts comes through clearly. However, your writing would benefit from more detailed character development and clearer scene descriptions. Additionally, you could strengthen your story by showing Sadie's emotions more gradually rather than telling readers how she feels. Consider expanding the moments where Sadie makes important decisions, allowing readers to follow her thinking more closely. Also, try to provide more specific details about time and place to help readers visualise the scenes better. Your dialogue with Sadie's internal thoughts works well, but adding more sensory details about the garden, the competition, and Sadie's daily routine would make the story feel more real and engaging for your audience.

Overall Score: 45/50

Section 2:

#1 Sadie sighed, her eyes glittering like light in the dark sky. The trees around her shone with an enchanted glow as the moon descended slowly over their heads. There, in the middle of the clearing, was her most important possession. The green stem seemed to mock her with a playful tilt.

Perhaps entering the gardening competition wasn't such a good decision after all. ~~Maybe I shouldn't have entered it at all, Sadie thought gloomily.~~ [Maybe she shouldn't have entered it at all, Sadie thought gloomily.]

The prize was too entrancing: a free trip to Hollywood. As soon as she had seen it, she knew she had to try. Unfortunately, her dreams faded away as fast as lightning, leaving her angry and frustrated.

~~Why can't it just grow? [Why couldn't it just grow?] The due date was a week away, and yet it had not even risen~~ [yet it had not grown] an inch since last month. All her hard work — from pulling the weeds to watering it — had been for nothing. She'd seen the sunflower field the neighbouring farm had grown. The flowers had beautiful golden petals, perfect down to the last atom. Meanwhile, hers seemed like a joke compared to the farmer's.

#2 As the clock slowly ticked by, hope turned into desperation, and desperation grew extreme. Looking at the farmer's rows of carefully cared for sunflowers, an idea started to form in Sadie's head.

~~Why can't she just take one?~~ [Why couldn't she just take one?] It would be better than handing in hers, which hadn't even sprouted any petals yet. The farmer wouldn't notice; there were too many for him to care for anyway. But again, that would be cheating — taking someone else's hard work to impress the judge was unacceptable. If she ~~was found to be~~ [were found] cheating, she would surely be disqualified. And even if she wasn't caught, the glory and triumph of winning the competition wouldn't be Sadie's after all.

When only three days remained and her own sunflower still hadn't grown, Sadie became more worried and desperate than ever. Her heart seemed to be beating rapidly every second, and she was twitching her fingers every time she saw the farmer's sunflowers. Finally, on the second last day, Sadie's patience ~~relented~~ [gave way]. She was going to steal one.

Creeping under the fence, she ~~glanced all the sunflowers hungrily~~ [gazed hungrily at all the sunflowers]. Sadie chose the finest one she could find. The flower shuddered as she slowly pulled it out of the earth, seeming as if it knew that Sadie wasn't supposed to be touching it. After a while, Sadie planted the flower next to her own, seeing the contrast between the two clear and bright. As the princess and the servant sat together in the cold moonlight, Sadie was finally satisfied.

#3 The next morning, Sadie woke up feeling guilty but assured she would win the competition. When she arrived at the clearing with a pot, electricity ran through her veins. How was that possible?

The flower she had borrowed from the farmer now drooped, its petals grey and withered. The small one, in fact, was now sprouting. Golden petals wrapped around a small core, ~~bestowing~~ [bringing] warmth to the place.

Suddenly, she understood. She shouldn't have stolen the flower from the farmer, as it had withered under her care. True success isn't about perfection; it is about the work you do and the lessons you learn along the way. She would have to ~~give her flower to the farmer as payback~~ [return the withered flower to the farmer and apologise]. Despite this, Sadie smiled. She had ~~learnt~~ [learned] a valuable lesson, and the competition didn't matter now.