

## Section 1

#1 (Opening paragraph - "Spring awoke like a breathe of fresh air...")

**Strengths:** Your opening creates a vivid seasonal transition with lovely imagery like "the sun opened its curtains" and "blanket of light covering our village." The contrast between winter's grimness and spring's brightness effectively sets the mood.

**Weakness: Grammatical inconsistencies** → You've written "like a breathe of fresh air" when it should be "breath" (the noun), and there are several comma splices that make sentences run together awkwardly. The phrase "shovels, watering cans and seeds all anticipating the moment" creates confusion about who is actually doing the anticipating.

**Exemplar:** *Spring awoke like a breath of fresh air, brightening the mood that had lingered from the grim, frigid winter. As if emerging from hibernation, the sun opened its curtains, casting a blanket of light over our village.*

#2 (Second paragraph about parents - "Everyone except my sedentary parents...")

**Strengths:** Your use of similes comparing your parents to "a student who forgot to complete homework" creates relatable imagery. The dialogue examples with Helen and the elderly neighbour add authenticity to their excuse-making.

**Weakness: Sentence structure problems** → Several sentences become confusing due to unclear pronoun references and overly complex constructions. The phrase "more reluctantly than a student forced to sit an optional test" creates logical confusion, and "purposely as careless as a two year old" has awkward word order.

**Exemplar:** *Yet every year, they still planted one sunflower seed with the reluctance of a student sitting an optional exam, handling it as carelessly as a toddler might.*

#3 (Final two paragraphs about the sunflower's growth)

**Strengths:** The transformation from "unwanted weed into a mesmerising plant" provides a satisfying character arc. Your parallel between your mood and the sunflower's condition creates effective emotional resonance.

**Weakness: Tense confusion and unclear progression** → You switch between "wilted" (incorrect past tense) and present tense inconsistently. The phrase "Once it had finally decided to bloom, however, nothing changed" contradicts the later description of positive transformation, making the timeline confusing.

**Exemplar:** *As I watched the flower transform from a struggling seedling into a magnificent plant, my mood brightened just as spring had on that first day.*

■ Your piece demonstrates strong creative potential with engaging imagery and a clear emotional journey. The central metaphor connecting your feelings to the sunflower's growth works well and shows sophisticated thinking. However, your writing would benefit from clearer sentence structures and more consistent grammar. Focus on making each sentence say one main idea clearly before moving to the next. Additionally, work on maintaining consistent verb tenses throughout your story - if you're telling about past events, stick with past tense words. Your vocabulary choices show good range, but some sentences become too complicated and lose their meaning. Try reading each sentence aloud to check if it makes sense on its own. Also, pay attention to the logical flow between ideas - make sure each paragraph connects smoothly to the next one and that your story's timeline is easy to follow.

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**Overall Score: 43/50**

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## Section 2

~~Spring awoke like a breathe of fresh air~~ [Spring awoke like a breath of fresh air], brightening the mood that had lingered from the grim, frigid winter. As if it had been in hibernation, the sun opened its curtains, ~~the blanket of light covering~~ [casting a blanket of light over] our village. My neighbours opened their doors on that first Saturday of the season, ~~shovels, watering cans and seeds all anticipating the moment~~ [carrying shovels, watering cans and seeds, all anticipating the moment]. Everyone anticipating the moment. The moment the flowers would bloom. #1

Everyone except my sedentary parents. Every year, they created a new excuse like a student who forgot to complete and hand in their homework. Except they were more intelligent. "Hip problem, you know, old age," they would say to Helen, the nineteen-year-old next door, or "too much work to complete," they would chuckle to the retired, elderly man down the street. Yet every year, they still, ~~more reluctantly than a student forced to sit an optional test~~ [with the reluctance of a student sitting an optional exam], planted one sunflower seed, ~~purposely as careless as a two year old~~ [handling it as carelessly as a toddler]. #2

So when my friends charged up my driveway faster than cheetahs ~~my~~ [in my] first year of primary school, questioning what I had planted for the Spring Flowers Festival, I had no choice but to mumble "I'm too busy," when the reality was my parents were koalas and I had less rights than a murderer in prison.

As spring continued ~~on~~, I admired other roses, poppies and daisies while my sunflower ~~wilted~~ [wilted] as it was carelessly nurtured. While ~~opened up to the sky, mine~~ [others opened to the sky, mine] refused to awake from its fitful sleep. ~~Everyday~~ [Every day] mine stayed asleep while others grew ~~to~~ [into] beautiful flowers [.] ~~my~~ [My] mood became further and further from everyone else's, and closer and closer to my sunflower's.

Once it had finally decided to bloom, however, ~~nothing changed~~ [the struggle continued]. The petals ~~wilted~~ [wilted] as it was being carelessly nurtured, while others were a kaleidoscope of colours that looked like mosaics. Others held their heads high with pride, while mine bowed its head down in shame. Others were as straight as sticks, while mine was a question mark. Finally, I asked to ~~culture~~ [tend to] the flower, and my parents didn't even glance up at me from their phones, so I took the initiative. #3

As I watched the flower grow from an unwanted weed into a mesmerising plant, my mood brightened like spring had that first day. The sunflower had once brought gloom into my life [.] ~~now~~ [Now] it brought joy.