

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph: "My ears were perked up, hearing the familiar honking of the train's horn. This time, however, felt less like 'get off, it's your stop', and more 'it's ok, you can get off now'. She sucked in a breath, slowly, deliberately."

Strengths: Your opening creates immediate atmosphere with sensory details like the train's horn. You also establish emotional tension by contrasting different feelings about the train's message.

Weakness: Point of view confusion → Your writing switches unexpectedly between first person ("My ears") and third person ("She sucked in a breath") within the same paragraph. This makes it unclear who is telling the story and confuses readers about which character they should follow.

Exemplar: *My ears were perked up, hearing the familiar honking of the train's horn. This time, however, it felt less like 'get off, it's your stop', and more like 'it's ok, you can get off now'. I sucked in a breath, slowly, deliberately.*

#2 - Reunion scene: "But nevertheless, my feet plonked onto the pavement as I ran to her, hands wide open. Her previously sleepy expression lit up as soon as she saw me. 'Emily!' she cried, flinging her weathered arms around me."

Strengths: Your dialogue feels natural and emotional. You show the mother's joy through actions like "flinging her weathered arms" rather than just telling us she was happy.

Weakness: Unclear physical setting → Your scene lacks clear details about where this reunion happens. Phrases like "plonked onto the pavement" and the train announcement suggest a train station, but you don't paint a clear picture of the surroundings for readers.

Exemplar: *Nevertheless, my feet touched the train platform as I ran to her, hands wide open. The busy station buzzed around us, but her previously sleepy expression lit up as soon as she saw me.*

#3 - Ending dialogue: "'Mother, I wish we could see each other more, rather than just once every 10 years,' I complained. Sighing, she replied, 'Oh, honey, so do I. But...' she hesitated."

Strengths: Your dialogue reveals important backstory about their relationship. The hesitation creates mystery and makes readers want to know more about why they can't meet often.

Weakness: Underdeveloped conflict → Your piece introduces the interesting idea that they only meet every 10 years but doesn't explore why this happens. This leaves readers with questions that make the story feel incomplete.

Exemplar: *'Mother, I wish we could see each other more often, rather than just once every 10 years,' I complained. Sighing, she replied, 'Oh, honey, so do I. But you know how dangerous it is for me to leave the village. The authorities...' she trailed off, glancing nervously at the station guards.*

■ Your piece shows strong emotional connection between the characters through their actions and dialogue. The reunion feels genuine and touching. However, your story needs clearer focus on one narrator throughout. Also, you should develop the setting more fully so readers can picture where events happen. Additionally, the mystery about why they meet so rarely needs more development to satisfy readers. Consider explaining the barriers that keep them apart. Furthermore, your story would benefit from showing more specific details about the train station and surrounding area. Also, think about giving readers hints about the mother's situation earlier in the story. Your emotional moments work well, but they need stronger foundation with clearer setting and consistent point of view.

Overall Score: 39/50

Section 2:

~~My~~ [#1 - My] ears were perked up, hearing the familiar honking of the train's horn. This time, however, ~~felt~~ [it felt] less like 'get off, it's your stop', and more 'it's ok, you can get off now'. ~~She sucked in a breath, slowly, deliberately. As Emily placed her trembling foot onto the platform, she could see~~ [like 'it's ok, you can get off now'. I sucked in a breath, slowly, deliberately. As I placed my trembling foot onto the platform, I could see] a bright yellow umbrella with the words 'WORLD'S BEST MUM' emblazoned on it. My cheeks flushed scarlet, remembering the goofy grin I had plastered on my face when I handed it to her. ~~But nevertheless, my feet plonked onto the pavement as I ran to her, hands wide open. Her previously sleepy expression lit up as soon as she saw me.~~ [Nevertheless, my feet touched the platform as I ran to her, hands wide open. Her previously sleepy expression lit up as soon as she saw me.]

~~"Emily!" she cried, flinging her weathered arms around me. Her face, every line, every wrinkle, every scar was blooming with euphoria.~~ [#2 - "Emily!" she cried, flinging her weathered arms around me. Her face—every line, every wrinkle, every scar—was blooming with euphoria.]

"Mother!" I exclaimed, embracing her tighter.

"I knew you would find me. My cute little baby girl is growing up so fast," she sighed.

"Mum, seriously? This is pu—"

"-blic? It's fine, honey," she interjected, reassuring me. I could feel the pace of her heartbeat. First, it was rapid, constant, speeding. Now it was ticking evenly, resting warmly against my neck.

"THIS STOP IS CHILKA," announced the train ~~voice~~ [conductor] in a monotonous tone. I shivered and crept back to my mother's warmth.

#3 - "Mother, I wish we could see each other more often, rather than just once every 10 years," I complained.

Sighing, she replied, "Oh, honey, so do I. But..." she hesitated.

"It's ~~ok~~ [okay], mum. You don't have to answer," I smiled. She smiled back~~,~~ [and] pulled me back into the embrace [—] the world of no worries.