

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph (train arrival scene) **Strengths:** Your vivid sensory details create a strong atmosphere, particularly "sparks flying as steel grind against steel" and the image of newspapers scattering. The metaphor "metallic scream" effectively shows the harsh, industrial setting.

Weakness: Grammar inconsistency → The verb tense shifts awkwardly in "steel grind against steel" when it should match the past tense of the rest of the sentence. This interrupts the flow of your otherwise engaging opening.

Exemplar: *"sparks flying as steel ground against steel"*

#2 - Jack's internal anxiety and reunion dialogue

Strengths: Your portrayal of Jack's nervous thoughts through questions shows his emotional state well. The dialogue feels natural and captures the awkwardness of their first meeting after years apart.

Weakness: Tonal shift disruption → The sudden change from formal narrative voice to "OMG, Mum!" creates a jarring contrast that doesn't match the serious, emotional tone you've established. The abbreviation feels too casual for this meaningful moment.

Exemplar: *"Oh my goodness, Mum! I haven't seen you in so long!"*

#3 - Physical transformation description and emotional resolution **Strengths:** Your comparison between past and present Jack creates clear character development. The ending brings emotional closure with the line about neither feeling alone.

Weakness: Word choice precision → The phrase "septendecillion years" feels overly technical and mathematical for an emotional reunion scene. It draws attention away from the heartfelt moment between mother and son.

Exemplar: *"Not in a million years" or "Never, not ever"*

■ Your piece captures the emotional weight of a long-awaited reunion effectively. You've chosen a meaningful moment that many readers can connect with emotionally. The train station setting works well as a neutral meeting place that adds to the tension. Your dialogue moves the story forward and reveals character relationships naturally. Additionally, you show character growth through Jack's physical changes, which helps readers understand how time has passed.

To strengthen your writing further, focus on keeping your tone consistent throughout the piece. Also, consider using simpler, more heartfelt language during emotional moments rather than complex words that might distract readers. Your descriptions work best when they support the

emotions rather than overshadowing them. Finally, pay close attention to grammar consistency, especially with verb tenses, as small errors can interrupt the reading experience.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2:

#1 The metal train screeched to a halt, sparks flying as steel ~~grind~~ [ground] against steel, echoing through the cavern station like a metallic scream. A cold gust swept along the platform as the doors hissed open, scattering newspapers across the concrete floor.

Jack's breath clouded in front of him. His hands twitched inside his jacket pockets. What if she doesn't come? What if she forgot me? What if... His thoughts tangled and knotted like the cables overhead. He stared at the flood of passengers pouring out, scanning every face, heart pounding against his ribs.

A shape appeared through the crowd—familiar, yet so far away.

"M-Mum?" His voice cracked, barely louder than a whisper.

Her head snapped up. "Jack?"

The world narrowed to that single word, his name, and suddenly time splintered apart.

#2 "OMG, Mum! I haven't seen you in so long!" he exclaimed, the words tumbling out as if five years of silence had broken in an instant. His throat burned, his chest heaved, and he couldn't stop grinning.

He had never seen her smile so wide. Her posture was straighter than he remembered, like someone who had fought storms and survived. For a heartbeat, they just stared, eyes locked across the platform, an unspoken tide of memories crashing between them.

The shy boy—skinny as a stick—was gone. In his place stood someone broader, taller, shoulders squared with a confidence he never had before. His black hair fell into his eyes as he bent to hold her closer.

"You've grown so much, Jack..." she murmured, voice trembling. "Life has changed you in ways I never imagined."

"You still look like Mum," he said softly, and for the first time in five years, his voice wavered.

Her eyes glistened, then overflowed, tears streaking down her cheeks like rivers breaking their banks. She tried to speak, but only a sob came.

"I thought..." She swallowed hard. "I thought you might've forgotten me."

#3 "Not a chance," he said, his voice firm now. "Not in a septendecillion years."

A laugh burst through her tears, shaky and raw. She pulled him into another hug, arms tightening as if she could squeeze the lost years out of existence. His jacket smelled faintly of rain and something foreign—maybe the new city, all the roads he had walked without her—but underneath was the same warmth she remembered.

And for the first time in five long years, neither of them felt alone.