

Section 1:

#1 (Opening scene and train arrival)

Strengths: Your opening establishes a clear setting with effective sensory details like "creaky wooden bench" and "ashen grey smoke filled the air." The imagery of people flooding from the train creates appropriate bustling atmosphere that contrasts nicely with Thomas's solitary waiting.

Weakness: Sentence structure monotony → Your writing relies heavily on simple sentence patterns that create choppy rhythm. The sequence "Thomas sat on the creaky wooden bench, eyes fixed onto the concrete ground. The train soon rumbled into view. Ashen grey smoke filled the air" demonstrates this pattern of short, declarative sentences that lack sophisticated variation.

Exemplar: *As Thomas sat on the creaky wooden bench with eyes fixed on the concrete ground, the train rumbled into view, filling the air with ashen grey smoke.*

#2 (Recognition and reunion dialogue)

Strengths: Your physical descriptions effectively convey the father's distinctive features through specific details like "warm, familiar chestnut eyes" and "vermilion, thin lips." The dialogue feels authentic and captures the awkwardness of reconnection after long separation.

Weakness: Narrative perspective confusion → Your writing shifts inconsistently between Thomas's viewpoint and his father's observations. The sentence "He stared at the son he left for ten years and noticed his features that had developed over the years" suddenly adopts the father's perspective without clear transition, disrupting reader engagement.

Exemplar: *Thomas's father studied his son intently, noting how the boy's features had matured during their decade apart.*

#3 (Emotional climax and resolution)

Strengths: Your portrayal of Thomas's emotional breakdown feels genuine and moving, particularly the detail "His tough facade melted instantly." The father's gentle humour about the mother's cooking habits provides effective emotional relief whilst maintaining character consistency.

Weakness: Dialogue mechanics and flow → Several dialogue exchanges lack proper punctuation and natural rhythm. The phrase "said Thomas with a straight strain in his voice" uses awkward phrasing, and "letting out hearty laughs" feels redundant after "chuckled."

Exemplar: *"Yes, let's not keep your mother waiting," Thomas's father chuckled. "I still remember how snappy she gets when I'm late for dinner."*

■ Your piece demonstrates strong emotional authenticity and creates a genuinely moving reunion scene between father and son. The contrast between Thomas's attempt to maintain composure and his inevitable emotional breakdown rings true to human experience. Your sensory details effectively establish the train station setting, and the physical descriptions of both characters help readers visualise the scene clearly. The dialogue captures the tentative nature of reconnection whilst showing genuine affection between the characters. However, your writing would benefit significantly from varying sentence structures to create more sophisticated rhythm and flow. Focus on combining shorter sentences into more complex constructions that demonstrate advanced writing skills. Additionally, maintain consistent narrative perspective throughout each paragraph to avoid confusing readers about whose thoughts and observations we're following. Your dialogue formatting needs attention to punctuation rules, and some phrases require refinement to sound more natural. The emotional pacing works well, building from anticipation through recognition to cathartic release, then settling into comfortable familial warmth. Consider expanding the middle section to show more of their conversation and mutual recognition process, which would strengthen the emotional impact of their reunion.

Score: 38/50

Section 2:

Thomas sat on the creaky wooden bench[with his] eyes fixed ~~onto~~ [on] the concrete ground. The train ~~soon~~ rumbled into view [, and] A[a]shen grey smoke filled the air. People flooded out of the train. Thomas stood up and scanned the platform for his father. It ~~has~~ [had] been ten years since his father ~~went~~ [had gone] to war. Then he felt a sharp tap on his shoulder. He whipped around [and] ~~He~~ [he] saw warm, familiar chestnut eyes, a ~~lion~~ [strong] nose and vermilion, thin lips.

"Thomas [,] ~~Y~~[y]ou've grown so much since the last time I saw you[,"] Thomas's father commented with a bright smile.

He stared at the son he ~~left~~ [had left] for ten years and noticed ~~his~~ [the] features that had developed over the years. Thomas had a sharper jaw and was more tanned and also looked more ~~burly~~ [muscular].

Thomas's eyes immediately filled with tears. His top lip quivered. He embraced his father ~~right away~~ [immediately]. His tough facade melted instantly. He buried his face in his father's shoulder and let out his sobs one by one. His father patted his son's back as he let tears roll down his ~~face~~ [own cheeks]. Thomas started talking between his sobs but his father couldn't ~~fathom~~ [understand] what Thomas was trying to say.

Thomas ~~stood up~~ [stepped back] and wiped the tears from his eyes.

"Father, let's go home. I have many things to show you. Mother prepared a feast.["] said Thomas with a straight strain [strained steadiness] in his voice. Thomas's father noticed how hard Thomas was trying to stop [avoid] breaking down, and he smiled.

"Yes, let's not keep your mother waiting. I still remember how snappy she gets when I am late for dinner.["] chuckled Thomas's father, letting out hearty laughs.

The pair headed home at last after being separated for a decade.