

Section 1

#1 - Opening reunion scene: *"Was it really her, the person that I had been longing to see since I had been shipped off to Sydney Cove. I ran and embraced her."*

Strengths: Your emotional connection between Rosamond and her mother feels genuine and touching. The immediate physical reaction of running to embrace her shows strong character development.

Weakness: Sentence Structure Problems → Your opening uses incomplete sentences and unclear pronoun references. The phrase "Was it really her, the person that I had been longing to see" needs proper punctuation and clearer structure to help readers follow your ideas smoothly.

Exemplar: *"Could it really be her - the person I had longed to see since being shipped off to Sydney Cove? I ran forward and embraced her tightly."*

#2 - Physical description of mother: *"The last time I saw my Mother she had short hair and had soft brown eyes. Now from the journey her eyes looked tired and weak and she was stumbling on her legs."*

Strengths: Your vivid descriptions help readers picture the mother's changed appearance clearly. The contrast between past and present shows the harsh effects of the journey well.

Weakness: Repetitive Word Choice → Your sentences use basic connecting words like "and" repeatedly, making the writing sound choppy. Phrases like "had short hair and had soft brown eyes" repeat the same structure unnecessarily.

Exemplar: *"When I last saw Mother, she possessed short hair and gentle brown eyes. Following her arduous journey, however, her eyes appeared weary whilst she struggled to maintain steady footing."*

#3 - Description of ship conditions: *"I remembered where I slept on the ship, hard, nasty, horrible and filled with rats was the only way I could describe it."*

Strengths: Your sensory details about the ship's horrible conditions create a strong atmosphere that helps readers understand the convicts' suffering.

Weakness: Run-on Sentence Construction → Your sentence structure becomes confused and difficult to follow. The phrase "hard, nasty, horrible and filled with rats was the only way I could describe it" doesn't flow logically with the beginning of the sentence.

Exemplar: *"I recalled my sleeping quarters aboard the ship - the only way to describe them would be hard, foul, wretched and infested with rats."*

■ Your piece demonstrates strong emotional understanding of the convict experience and creates believable characters facing difficult circumstances. The reunion between Rosamond and her mother provides a compelling central focus that drives your narrative forward effectively. However, your writing would benefit from improving sentence construction and varying your word choices. Many sentences feel choppy or incomplete, which interrupts the flow of your storytelling. Additionally, you could strengthen your piece by developing smoother transitions between ideas and scenes. Consider combining shorter sentences into longer, more complex ones that show relationships between your ideas more clearly. Also, work on expanding your vocabulary to avoid repeating basic words like "and" and "bad" throughout your writing. Your dialogue feels natural, but the descriptive passages need more sophisticated sentence structures to match the quality of your creative ideas.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2

~~Was it really her~~[Could it really be her] ~~, the person that I had been longing to see~~ [- the person I had longed to see] since I had been shipped off to Sydney Cove. [?] I ran and embraced her. I saw that she also had a friend with her this time.

"Mother, what have you done? Why are you at Sydney Cove like me? Why is Peppercorn with you?" I asked the ~~wheels in my brain turning~~ [, my mind racing] as I threw questions at her. Peppercorn was our family dog. We had adopted him from an adoption centre. He ~~is~~ [was] not a dog ~~that would~~ [who could] hurt anyone or do anything bad. The last time I saw my ~~Mother~~ [mother,] she had short hair and ~~had~~ [possessed] soft brown eyes. Now from [, following] the journey ~~her~~ [, her] eyes looked tired and weak and [, whilst] she was stumbling ~~on~~ [upon] her legs. Her hair had grown ~~to~~ [into] a very long cascading tower of brown locks with long strips of purple and teal hair dye alternating with the brown. Her hair was also filthy from not being washed ~~over~~ [during] the voyage. I felt a knot in my stomach creeping up towards my chest. I told myself to be brave. [, to] ~~I told myself~~ not ~~to~~ cry in front of my mother. I held it in.

"Rosamond! I am so happy that I can finally see you again. I came here for committing a crime as well [—] just a small theft ~~though~~ [, however]. Peppercorn had to come because the police said that he was ~~helping me~~ [assisting me]." ~~Mother~~ [Mother] said. She was shaking from the voyage. I gestured for her to sit down next to me. I filled her in on what had happened ~~through~~ [during] the past years without her. I told her how they had used a cat o' nine ~~tales~~ [tails] on me ~~and then I started~~

~~crying.~~ [, which caused me to weep.] I described to my ~~Mother~~ [mother] how the horrid whip was used on me multiple times, giving me bruises on my back. My body clenched even now, thinking of every crack of the whip. ~~I remembered where I slept on the ship, hard, nasty, horrible and filled with rats was the only way I could describe it.~~ #3 [I recalled my sleeping quarters aboard the ship - the only way to describe them would be hard, foul, wretched and infested with rats.] It stunk like vomit and sewage when someone was sick or needed to ~~go to the bathroom~~ [relieve themselves]. The flour had ~~weasels~~ [weevils] in ~~them~~ [it] and all ~~us~~ [of us] convicts were never happy. Day after day the walls were ~~all~~ sticky and nothing seemed clean. This was nothing like my life in England. All the convicts on board the Lady Penrhyn were mainly ~~mean~~ [cruel], though some were ~~kind-hearted~~ [kind-hearted]. One of the kind-hearted convicts, Eleanor [—] a female convict [—] reminded me of ~~Mother~~ [mother]. It was comforting but also made me sad.

A sudden thought came to mind[:]

"What about Father?" I asked. At the thought of ~~father~~ [Father,] it pulled ~~my heart a bit~~ [at my heartstrings]. I worried that he would be all alone ~~in another ship or prison~~ [in another ship or prison], confined to some distant ship or prison], ~~Eating~~ [eating] only stale bread and little salted beef that ~~rotted~~ [had rotted].

"Oh he's [, he's] back at home safe [, safe]." ~~Mother~~ [Mother] said.

"~~That's~~ [That's] good, so [, So] he hasn't committed any crimes yet?"

"Oh no, not for now," Mother said with a little laugh. Thank goodness. I was relieved that at least Father was safe.

I told ~~Mother~~ [mother] how I ~~got~~ [had obtained] a job working on a farm. I had to dig up manure from the fields, empty the worm farm [, and] herd and milk the goats. It was tiring and smelly work [—] ~~and~~ different from my old life in England. I hadn't noticed but [, but] ~~Mother~~ [mother] had a ball and chain around her ankle. It looked very ~~hard~~ [difficult] to carry around.

"Is it hurting you?" I asked her, gasping.

"It is ~~OK~~ [fine], not bad at all.. [.]" She said, trying to smile [, yet] ~~but instead~~ wincing. I smiled sadly back at her. I knew she was in ~~a great amount of~~ [considerable] pain, as I'd also had a ball and chain when I first arrived. The metal had scraped the skin around my ankles raw.

One of the ~~mean~~ [cruel] soldiers approached and gave us both lunch. Today ~~was~~ [we received] some stale bread with ~~little~~ [a small portion of] salt fish and a small piece of chocolate as a treat. We ate it ~~in thanks~~ [gratefully] although it was very little, being [. Being] girl convicts meant that we didn't ~~have~~ [receive] as ~~much of a proportion~~ [large a portion] of food as males. My stomach was still growling afterwards.

~~Over~~ [Throughout] this journey ~~I've~~ [, I had] learnt to overcome my fears, the whip and going onto a ship on my own, worried, but all alone I was afraid I would not be able to survive[—the whip,

boarding a ship alone whilst worried, yet isolated as I was, I feared I would not survive]. Now I was reunited with my ~~Mother~~ [mother]. We would have each other in the penal colony at ~~least~~ [, at least]. I could only hope for a brighter future [—] one where maybe one day we could return to England.