

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph: "And when the lights came back on, the trophy was gone. For a moment the hall was as quiet as a library. Everyone stared at the empty table. Just seconds ago the gold trophy had been sitting there, shiny and bright. Now there was nothing, only a dusty circle left behind."

Strengths: Your opening creates immediate intrigue and uses effective imagery like "dusty circle left behind" to show rather than tell what happened.

Weakness: Abrupt transition → Your writing jumps straight into the mystery without establishing the setting or context. Readers don't know where this is happening, why people are gathered, or what the trophy represents, making it harder to connect with the story.

Exemplar: *Before the ceremony began, our entire school had gathered in the main hall to celebrate the annual academic awards. And when the lights came back on, the trophy was gone.*

#2 - Middle section: "I scanned the room. Liam was standing closest to the stage. His fists were jammed tightly into his pockets, and his face was turned down to the floor. He wouldn't meet anyone's eyes. My chest tightened. Could it be him? Then I noticed Mia. She had swung her schoolbag onto her lap and was holding it firmly, like it was a precious treasure."

Strengths: Your character observations are detailed and create suspicion effectively through body language descriptions.

Weakness: Repetitive sentence structure → Most of your sentences follow the same pattern of short, simple statements. This makes the writing feel choppy and doesn't show the connections between your ideas clearly.

Exemplar: *As I scanned the room, I noticed Liam standing closest to the stage with his fists jammed tightly into his pockets, his face turned down to avoid everyone's eyes, which made my chest tighten with suspicion.*

#3 - Resolution: "My jaw dropped. There was Sam, crouched low, the trophy clutched tightly in his arms. His face was bright red. 'I wasn't trying to steal it!' he burst out before anyone could speak. His voice shook. 'I just wanted to hold it. I wanted to know what it feels like to win something... for once.'"

Strengths: Your dialogue reveals Sam's motivation clearly and creates sympathy for his character.

Weakness: Underdeveloped emotional impact → The discovery of Sam lacks deeper exploration of the narrator's feelings and thoughts about misjudging others. The resolution feels rushed without showing how this revelation affects the narrator's understanding.

Exemplar: *My jaw dropped as guilt washed over me—I had been so quick to suspect my classmates when Sam, quiet Sam whom I barely noticed, simply wanted to experience what winning felt like.*

■ Your piece tells an engaging mystery story with a clear beginning, middle, and end. The plot moves at a good pace and keeps readers interested in finding out who took the trophy. However, your writing would benefit from adding more background information at the start so readers understand the setting better. Additionally, you could improve your sentence variety by combining some shorter sentences and using connecting words like "while," "although," and "because" to show relationships between ideas. Also, consider developing your characters' emotions more deeply, especially the narrator's feelings about wrongly suspecting others. Your story has a good message about not judging people too quickly, but this theme could be stronger if you showed more of the narrator's internal growth and realisation about making assumptions.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2:

#1 And when the lights came back on, the trophy was gone.

For a moment[the hall was as quiet as a library. Everyone stared at the empty table. Just seconds ago[the gold trophy had been sitting there, shiny and bright. Now there was nothing, only a dusty circle left behind. My heart thumped so hard I thought people could hear it [. I scanned the crowd. Then everyone started talking at once. Chairs screeched, kids whispered, and I even heard someone gasp, "It's stolen!" I felt my face grow hot. I looked around quickly, hoping to spot something the others didn't.

#2 I scanned the room. Liam was standing closest to the stage. His fists were jammed tightly into his pockets, and his face was turned down to the floor. He wouldn't meet anyone's eyes. My chest tightened. Could it be him? Then I noticed Mia. She had swung her schoolbag onto her lap and was holding it firmly, like it was a precious treasure. Her eyes darted to the side whenever anyone looked her way. Ruby also seemed jittery. She twisted her braid so hard I thought it might snap, her foot tapping against the wooden floor in a nervous rhythm. Everywhere I looked, someone seemed guilty. A cold shiver ran down my back. My chest felt heavy, and my hands were getting sweaty. ~~One of them has to have it, I thought.~~ **[One of them has to have it, I thought to myself.]**

I stepped closer to the stage, my ears straining. That's when I heard a faint scrape, scrape. My heart jumped. The sound was coming from the curtains. The red fabric shivered a little, like someone was hiding behind it. Then, clang! A sharp sound echoed from the corner. We all spun around. The curtain rippled. My pulse hammered in my ears. The [**The** curtain swayed again. I slowly pulled the curtains apart.

#3 My jaw dropped. There [**There** was Sam, crouched low, the trophy clutched tightly in his arms. His face was bright red.

"I wasn't trying to steal it!" he burst out before anyone could speak. His voice shook. "I just wanted to hold it. I wanted to know what it feels like to win something... for once."

The whole hall went quiet. No more whispers, no more giggles. Everyone just stared at him.

I stood there frozen, the truth sinking in. I'd been so sure it was Liam, or Mia, or even Ruby. But it wasn't them. It was Sam, quiet Sam, the one nobody noticed, hiding in the shadows with the trophy he wished was his.