

Section 1:

#1 *"The air in the terminal was a heavy, stale mix of coffee and nervous energy. Leo leaned against a polished stone pillar, his knuckles white where he gripped his bag's strap."*

Strengths: Your opening creates a clear picture of the setting and shows Leo's nervousness through his body language.

Weakness: Vague sensory details → Your description of "nervous energy" in the air is unclear. Air cannot actually contain emotions, so this phrase doesn't help readers understand what Leo is experiencing. The phrase "heavy, stale mix" also needs more specific details about what makes the terminal feel this way.

Exemplar: *The terminal air smelt of burnt coffee and cleaning chemicals, making Leo feel queasy as he gripped his bag's strap.*

#2 *"'Leo?' she said, her voice a little breathy, like she was holding back a sob. 'Mom,' he managed. The word felt foreign, too big for the small space between them."*

Strengths: Your dialogue feels natural and shows the awkwardness between the characters after their long separation.

Weakness: Confusing metaphor → The phrase "too big for the small space between them" doesn't make sense. Words don't have size compared to physical spaces. This makes it hard for readers to understand what you mean about how Leo feels saying "Mom."

Exemplar: *"Mom," he managed. The word felt strange on his tongue after seven years of silence.*

#3 *"The knot in his stomach finally unraveled, replaced by a rushing warmth. He dropped his bag and took a step forward, then another, until he was close enough."*

Strengths: Your writing shows Leo's emotional change clearly through the physical feeling in his stomach.

Weakness: Incomplete action → You write "until he was close enough" but don't finish the thought. Close enough for what? This leaves readers hanging and doesn't complete the scene properly.

Exemplar: *He dropped his bag and took a step forward, then another, until he was close enough to reach out and touch her.*

■ Your piece tells an emotional story about a mother and son meeting after seven years apart. The reunion scene feels real and touching. However, your writing needs clearer descriptions and complete thoughts to help readers follow along better. Additionally, some of your word choices make the meaning unclear rather than adding depth. Try to be more specific about what characters see, hear, and smell instead of using vague phrases. Also, make sure to finish your thoughts completely so readers aren't left wondering what happens next. Your dialogue works well and shows the characters' feelings naturally. To improve your writing, focus on one paragraph at a time and ask yourself if someone else could easily picture what's happening. Check that each sentence makes complete sense on its own.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2:

#1 The air in the terminal was a heavy, stale mix of coffee and ~~nervous energy~~ [cleaning chemicals]. Leo leaned against a polished stone pillar, his knuckles white where he gripped his bag's strap. He watched the arrivals board, its bright, digital numbers a flicker of disquiet against the cavernous gloom. Seven years. A chasm measured not just in time but in silence. He hadn't known what to expect from this moment, but the heavy knot of dread in his gut was a chillingly familiar feeling. The last passengers from the Boston flight began to trickle out, and Leo's breath caught. Their hollow footsteps echoed on the tile floor like a slow drumbeat, growing closer. His gaze darted across the thinning crowd, searching. And then, he saw her.

#2 Clara hadn't changed as much as he'd thought. A few more lines were etched around her eyes, but her smile was the same—a little tired, but genuine. The rattle of her suitcase handle against the tile was a familiar sound he hadn't ~~realized~~ [realised] he'd missed. She stopped a few feet away, her eyes scanning the crowd before locking on his.

"Leo?" she said, her voice a little breathy, like she was holding back a sob.

"Mom," he managed. ~~The word felt foreign, too big for the small space between them.~~ [The word felt strange on his tongue after seven years of silence.]

A silence stretched, filled only by the distant announcements. He wanted to say, "I missed you," but all he could manage was a foolish observation. "Your hair," he blurted out.

A small, genuine laugh escaped her. "Yours is longer. It used to be a little boy's bowl cut. Things definitely change."

#3 The laughter faded, replaced by a more serious expression. Her eyes, the exact same shade of brown as his, glistened with unshed tears.

"I know I can't get that time back, sweetheart," she said, her voice low and steady. "But I'm here now. And I'm not going anywhere."

Tears welled in his own eyes. The knot in his stomach finally unravelled, replaced by a rushing warmth. He dropped his bag and took a step forward, then another, ~~until he was close enough~~ [until he was close enough to reach out and touch her]. He opened his arms, and for the first time in seven years, he was home. Their embrace was tight, a silent conversation of apology, forgiveness, and love that spanned all the years they had lost.