

## Section 1

**#1: "A new house, a new life, a new story. I marvel at the luxurious interiors of the breathtaking house. It's floor to ceiling windows boasted stunning panoramic views of the city, and the interior was lavishly furnished with a sumptuous velvet sofa scattered with silk cushions."**

### Strengths:

- Your opening sentence creates a strong rhythm with its repetition of "a new," which builds excitement about the move
- You've included specific, sensory details about the furniture (velvet sofa, silk cushions) that help readers picture the house

**Apostrophe error in possessive form** → You've written "It's floor to ceiling windows" but "it's" means "it is." When showing that something belongs to something else (the windows belong to the house), you need to write "its" without the apostrophe. This is a tricky rule because it's the opposite of how we usually show ownership.

**Exemplar:** *Its floor-to-ceiling windows boasted stunning panoramic views of the city, and the interior was lavishly furnished with a sumptuous velvet sofa scattered with silk cushions.*

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**#2: "But at this house all it is, is a barren piece of dirt, mangled, messy and frankly not beautiful. I step outside into the "garden", plonking myself on the rotting steps, I see a human sized hole in the fence."**

### Strengths:

- The contrast between the beautiful interior and ugly garden creates an interesting problem for your character to solve
- The word "plonking" is a great choice because it shows the character's disappointed, heavy mood

**Run-on sentence structure** → Your sentence "I step outside into the 'garden', plonking myself on the rotting steps, I see a human sized hole in the fence" joins too many actions together with just commas. This makes readers lose track of what's happening first, second, and third. You need to either split this into separate sentences or use connecting words to show how the actions relate to each other.

**Exemplar:** *I step outside into the "garden" and plonk myself on the rotting steps. That's when I see a human-sized hole in the fence.*

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**#3: "I take a step leaves crunching, leaving scattered remains, each piece smaller than the last. The overhanging vines stretch across the walkway providing shade but still letting in light, giving the walkway the perfect amount of light."**

**Strengths:**

- Your description of the leaves getting smaller shows careful observation of nature
- You've captured the magical atmosphere of the secret garden well with details about light and shade

**Missing punctuation between clauses** → In "I take a step leaves crunching," you've put two separate ideas together without any punctuation or connecting words between them. Readers need either a comma, a full stop, or a word like "and" to understand how these ideas fit together. Additionally, you've repeated "light" and "walkway" in the second sentence, which makes the writing feel stuck rather than moving forward.

**Exemplar:** *I take a step, leaves crunching beneath my feet and leaving scattered remains, each piece smaller than the last. The overhanging vines stretch across the walkway, providing just the right amount of dappled shade.*

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■ Your piece shows real promise in creating atmosphere and using descriptive language. You've chosen vivid words like "sumptuous," "mystify," and "plonking" that bring your writing to life. However, your story would benefit from clearer sentence structure throughout. Many of your sentences try to do too much at once, joining several actions or descriptions with only commas, which confuses readers about the order of events. Additionally, you could strengthen your opening by showing us more about why the character cares so deeply about gardens before describing the new house. This would help readers

understand the character's disappointment better. Your middle section, where the character discovers the secret garden, rushes through the experience quite quickly. Try slowing down here—what does the garden smell like? What sounds does the character hear? How does their body feel as they step through the fence? These sensory details would make the magical moment even more powerful. Also, the ending stops very suddenly with "the figure is revealed." Your readers will want to know more—even just one sentence about what the character sees or feels in that moment would create a stronger finish. Think about what emotion you want your readers to feel right at the end, and give them just enough information to feel that way.

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**Overall Score: 39/50**

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## Section 2

The secret garden

A new house, a new life, a new story. I marvel at the luxurious interiors of the breathtaking house. ~~It's~~ [Its] floor-to-ceiling windows boasted stunning panoramic views of the city, and the interior was lavishly furnished with a sumptuous velvet sofa scattered with silk cushions. [, along with] A [a] solid walnut table and a meticulously handcrafted silk rug which lay over the sleek oak floorboards. **#1** ~~However,~~ however great the interior may be, ~~it doesn't~~ [it didn't] have a backyard. At my old house the garden was bigger than the house, with petunias, roses [and] violets—~~[.] it [It] was beautiful. But at this house,~~ all it is is a barren piece of dirt, ~~[—]~~ mangled, messy, and frankly not beautiful. **#2** ~~I step outside into the "garden", plonking myself on the rotting steps, I see a human sized hole in the fence. [I step outside into the "garden" and plonk myself on the rotting steps. That's when I see a human-sized hole in the fence.]~~ My eyes sparkled with the brilliancy of a flawless diamond and a smile spread across my face like a sudden burst of sunshine from out of the gloom. Stumbling forward one foot after the other I make my way to the hole ~~[.] peeking~~ [Peeking] out, I see a breathtakingly stunning garden. I pop my whole body through the hole.

A sudden warmth washes over me ~~[.]~~ ~~I~~ [I] stagger back from the beauty.

"This garden is better than my old house's," I think to myself.[.] Flowers [as flowers] of all colours [colours] surround me, entrap me,[and] mystify me. My name is called from inside the house[.] I [I] rush back to the house, for some reason not wanting my parents to find out about the garden.

"Dishes," my mum calls[.]

"Uhhhh," I groan[.]

Trudging up the stairs, I sigh and empty the dishwasher.[.] Longing [longing] to go back to the garden. I finish. Ecstatically walking down the stairs, sprinting [I sprint] through the fence into the garden of my dreams. It was even better than when I last remembered it. #3 The flowers are [were] suddenly more vibrant, the overhanging vines are [were] more green, the trees are [were] taller—[.] everything is [Everything was] better. I take a step leaves crunching, leaving scattered remains, each piece smaller than the last. [I take a step, leaves crunching beneath my feet and leaving scattered remains, each piece smaller than the last.] The overhanging vines stretch across the walkway,providing shade but still letting in light, giving the walkway the perfect amount of light [just the right amount of dappled shade]. The grass is cut to the perfect length and gives you the urge to not step on it without a sign. And then I see the green door. It starts to open[.] a [A] hand appears, and then out of the gloom the figure is revealed.