

Section 1

#1: Opening paragraph (First three sentences)

Strengths:

- Your opening creates immediate mystery by introducing the violin in an attic, which makes readers curious about what will happen next.
- You've included sensory details like "old worn violin" and "ancient wood" that help readers picture the instrument.

Inconsistent instrument naming → Your piece begins by stating "As soon as Grace touched the guitar, her life changed forever," but then immediately switches to describing a violin. This confuses readers because they're unsure which instrument Grace actually found. Throughout the rest of your story, you consistently refer to a violin, which suggests the opening sentence contains an error. This inconsistency disrupts the flow of your narrative from the very beginning and may cause readers to question whether they've misunderstood something important.

Exemplar: *As soon as Grace touched the violin, her life changed forever.*

#2: Music shop scene (Second paragraph)

Strengths:

- You've created tension by showing the shopkeeper's dramatic reaction, which builds excitement about the violin's value.
- The dialogue reveals important information about the Stradivarius violin in a natural way through conversation.

Underdeveloped character response → When Grace learns her violin is worth "millions, maybe more," her emotional reaction feels rushed and incomplete. You write that she "took back the violin with shaking hands," which shows some physical response, but your piece doesn't explore her thoughts or feelings in this moment. What is she thinking? Is she shocked, excited, scared, or overwhelmed? The discovery that she owns a priceless instrument is a life-changing moment, yet your writing moves past it

very quickly. Developing this moment would help readers connect more deeply with Grace's experience and understand the weight of the decision she faces later.

Exemplar: *Grace's heart pounded as she took back the violin with shaking hands. Millions of dollars? The word echoed in her mind as she stumbled towards the door, barely able to process what she'd just learnt.*

#3: Resolution (Final paragraph)

Strengths:

- You've concluded the story by showing the outcome of Grace's decision twenty years later, which gives readers closure.

Rushed plot development → Your story compresses what should be significant events into just a few sentences. The phrase "She paced her room for three days pondering about the matter" tells readers about Grace's struggle, but your piece doesn't show us what she's actually thinking during this time. Then, after three days of difficult decision-making, the resolution happens very quickly: she plays one song, her parents cry, and they immediately agree. This feels too simple for such an important choice. Additionally, jumping "twenty years later" in a single sentence skips over Grace's entire journey to becoming famous. Your writing would be stronger if you slowed down these important moments and included more details about Grace's path, her performances, or the challenges she faced along the way.

Exemplar: *Over the following weeks, Grace performed at small venues across the city, each note from the Stradivarius captivating her audiences. Word spread quickly about the young violinist with the legendary instrument, and within a year, she received her first invitation to perform at the concert hall.*

■ Your piece tells an engaging story about a meaningful choice between money and passion, which is a strong foundation for a narrative. The core idea—that Grace values music more than wealth—comes through clearly, and readers can understand why this matters to her. However, your writing would benefit from adding more depth to the key moments in the story. Right now, important events happen very quickly without giving readers time to experience them fully. For instance, when Grace discovers the violin's value, you could expand this section to show her conflicting emotions and thoughts.

Additionally, the three days Grace spends making her decision could become a powerful part of your story if you showed readers what she's considering during this time. Think about including specific moments: perhaps she tries playing the violin and feels a connection, or maybe she imagines what selling it would mean. Your ending also jumps forward twenty years in one sentence, which skips over Grace's entire journey. Consider adding a paragraph that shows one or two important moments from her rise to fame—perhaps her first major performance or a challenging time when she nearly gave up. Also, your dialogue could be strengthened by varying how characters speak and adding their actions or expressions. Instead of just writing what the shopkeeper says, show how he moves or looks as he speaks. These additions will help your readers feel more connected to Grace's story and understand why her choice matters so much.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2

~~As soon as Grace touched the guitar~~ [As soon as Grace touched the violin], her life changed forever. She reached into the ~~case~~ [case] in the attic and pulled out an old worn violin with musical memories buried deep inside the ancient wood. Grace had played the violin since she was five years old [;] ~~but~~ [however,] never in her life had she been beckoned to an instrument like this before. She then found a long wooden bow in the box and cautiously played a short sad tune. The ~~noise~~ [sound] ~~resonated~~ [reverberated] across the dusty attic and it brought tears to her eyes. The ~~noise~~ [sound] was beautiful.

#1

She ran to the nearest music shop and enquired what line of production this violin was [from.] As the man's gaze turned to the violin's interior, his eyes nearly popped out of his head. Then he enquired in a stuttering voice [:] "~~Where did~~ [Where did] you get ~~this~~ [this] violin?" Grace, who wasn't even sure what all the fuss was [about,] replied [:] "I found it in my ~~grandpa's~~ [grandfather's] attic." The man ~~lent~~ [leaned] over the counter and whispered in a hushed tone to her that the violin was one of the last Stradivarius violins left in the world and ~~it~~ [that it] would fetch millions, maybe more in an auction.

#2

Grace took back the violin with shaking hands and when she returned home, she went into her room, slammed the door and locked herself in. ~~A few million is a lot of money~~ ["**A few million is a lot of money,**"] she pondered [.] ~~but~~ ["**But**"] I want to use the violin to bring music to the world [."] She paced her room for three days pondering ~~about~~ the matter. Then one dark night, she came to a conclusion. She would ask her parents if she could keep it for herself. She ran her finger along the sleek polished wood and ~~went trooped~~ [**trooped**] downstairs to play a sad short ~~sonnet~~ [**sonata**] to her parents. At first her parents were all for selling it but then she started playing. When she was done [**finished,**] her parents were weeping their eyes out and immediately let her keep it. Twenty years later, Grace became a famous violin player and she is still playing the old Stradivarius violin today. #3