

Section 1

#1: "Nobody remembered the harmony of timpani and the melodic ensemble of strings. The world abandoned the imperfect beauty of orchestras and colour, but Charlie knew the world would eventually be languished in the trap of rambunctious noises."

Strengths:

- Your opening creates an interesting contrast between music/colour and the world's abandonment of these things, which immediately sets up the story's conflict.
- The word choices like "rambunctious noises" and "imperfect beauty" show you're thinking carefully about how to describe this musical world.

Unclear verb usage → The phrase "would eventually be languished" doesn't quite work because "languish" means to become weak or lose strength, but you can't "be languished"—it's something that happens on its own. When you write "the world would eventually be languished in the trap," it creates confusion about what you're trying to say. Are you suggesting the world will become trapped and grow weak? Or that it will suffer from the noisy trap? The meaning gets lost because the grammar doesn't support your idea clearly.

Exemplar: *The world would eventually languish in a trap of rambunctious noises or rambunctious noises would eventually ensnare the world.*

#2: "Charlie tugged at the charcoal-smudged curtains, slammed the groaning door, and the guitar radiated with threads of amber. The golden rays made it more than a battered guitar; it sparkled music in Charlie's ears."

Strengths:

- Your description of the guitar radiating with amber light creates a vivid image that connects light and music together nicely.
- The action sequence (tugging, slamming) helps show Charlie's movement and creates energy in the scene.

List structure issue → When you write "Charlie tugged at the charcoal-smudged curtains, slammed the groaning door, and the guitar radiated with threads of amber," the sentence structure becomes confusing. The first two actions (tugged, slammed) are things Charlie does, but the third item (the guitar radiated) is something that happens to the guitar, not something Charlie does. This breaks the pattern readers expect in a list, making them pause and re-read. Lists work best when all the items follow the same pattern—either all actions Charlie performs, or all separate sentences describing different things.

Exemplar: *Charlie tugged at the charcoal-smudged curtains and slammed the groaning door. The guitar radiated with threads of amber.*

#3: "Charlie crawled between the bookshelves with suspended books that were about to fall two seconds ago; cobwebs stretched like a teetering bridge. Charlie thought lonesomely, 'Why will the world of music exile me? Why hadn't Grandpa ever told me about a small corner of music that still existed in this world?'"

Strengths:

- The image of frozen time with books suspended mid-fall creates an eerie, magical atmosphere that fits your story well.
- Your questions reveal Charlie's emotional state and help readers understand his feelings of abandonment.

Time logic confusion → The phrase "about to fall two seconds ago" creates a puzzle that doesn't make sense. If something was "about to fall," that means it's going to fall in the future. But "two seconds ago" points to the past. These two time directions oppose each other, which makes readers stop and wonder what you mean. Did the books stop falling two seconds ago? Were they frozen just before falling? The sentence also has Charlie asking "Why will the world of music exile me?" when he's already been exiled, so "Why has the world exiled me?" would be clearer. These time confusions pull readers out of your story instead of keeping them engaged.

Exemplar: *Charlie crawled between the bookshelves where books hung suspended, frozen mid-fall; cobwebs stretched like a teetering bridge.*

■ Your piece shows you have a strong imagination and can create interesting images with words like "sepia-tinted photograph," "mahogany guitar," and "cerulean river." You're clearly thinking about how to make your descriptions rich and colourful. However, the story's main idea—why the world lost music and colour, and what Charlie's connection to this is—needs to be clearer. Readers can see that time has frozen and Charlie misses his grandpa, but the cause and meaning behind these events remain fuzzy. Additionally, your third paragraph seems to show a flashback to Grandpa's room with colours and life, but you haven't made it clear enough that this is a memory rather than the present moment. Consider adding a clear signal like "Charlie remembered" or "In his mind, he returned to" so readers don't get confused. The ending also feels abrupt—you introduce the idea that Charlie's love for guitar matters, but you don't show what happens next or how this realisation changes anything. Think about extending your conclusion to show Charlie taking action based on his realisation. Also, some of your sentences try to do too much at once by cramming multiple images together, which sometimes creates grammar problems like the list issue in your second paragraph. Breaking complex sentences into two shorter ones often makes your ideas clearer and stronger.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2:

Nobody remembered the harmony of timpani and the melodic ensemble of strings. The world abandoned the imperfect beauty of orchestras and colour, but Charlie knew ~~the world would eventually be languished in the trap of rambunctious noises.~~ [rambunctious noises would eventually ensnare the world.]

Charlie stared at Grandpa's sepia-tinted photograph. His cordial voice reverberated through his mind, his clichéd stories of Little Red Riding Hood. In the corner of his ramshackle hut beside the once cerulean river, the mahogany guitar stood like a solitary soldier, finally returning to its hometown. The once strong strings sewed together memorable legatos, yet now they were mangled by a black-and-white pandemic.

~~Charlie tugged at the charcoal-smudged curtains, slammed the groaning door, and the guitar radiated with threads of amber.~~ [Charlie tugged at the charcoal-smudged curtains and slammed the groaning

door. The guitar radiated with threads of amber.] The golden rays made it more than a battered guitar; it sparkled music in Charlie's ears. His numb fingers plucked the frosty strings—no sound. No memories. Just deafening silence. The grey candle wax dangled onto the candle. ~~Coffee-stained~~ [Coffee-stained] maps of the world were suspended in the air. Nothing seemed to move. All wildlife stopped. Even the weak heartbeat of the world stopped.

~~Charlie crawled between the bookshelves with suspended books that were about to fall two seconds ago, cobwebs stretched like a teetering bridge.~~ [#3 begins: Charlie crawled between the bookshelves where books hung suspended, frozen mid-fall; cobwebs stretched like a teetering bridge.] Charlie thought lonesomely, ~~"Why will the world of music exile me? Why hadn't Grandpa ever told me about a small corner of music that still existed in this world?"~~ ["Why has the world of music exiled me? Why hadn't Grandpa ever told me about a small corner of music that still existed in this world?"]

"Come to my room, Charles," echoed Grandpa's soft voice. "Grandpa? What does the guitar do?" asked Charlie, eyes welling with lachrymose tears as he stared towards the sky that was always covered by heavy clouds.

Charlie held onto the rusty doorknob that left stains on his fingers—no creaks, no complaining door groans. Apples and oranges were like a sunset that reflected onto the shining windows. The sapphire bedsheets felt fluffy like those vibrant cotton candies Grandpa used to buy for Charlie. ~~Color~~ [Colour] pencils were scattered all over the desk like a rainbow, and the black-and-white music piece with the letters: C-H-A-R-L-I-E on it. "This guitar used to be your helpful enemy. Remember how I forced you to play guitar and how you scribbled all over the sheet music I spent my monthly salary to buy?" sighed Grandpa.

Charlie began to realise—how can the world be like this without his true love for guitar? With the unique harmony of six strings, the tranquil hush of trickling water returned to his ears. The coats of varnish represented the true care for his guitar, all tied together with impenetrable strings that held together crescendos of music.