

Section 1

#1: Opening paragraph

Strengths:

- You've created lovely visual imagery with phrases like "glimmer like a field of diamonds" and "curling in like soft, woven silk," which help readers picture the beautiful beach setting.
- Your description builds a peaceful, happy mood that contrasts nicely with what happens later in the story.

Vague emotional summary → Your final sentence, "The beach pulsed with joy and life," tells us how to feel rather than showing us the actual sights and sounds. Instead of stating emotions, you could describe what you actually see and hear—perhaps children's laughter echoing across the sand, or the smell of sunscreen mixing with salt air. These specific details would help readers experience the joy themselves.

Exemplar: *The squeals of children building sandcastles mixed with the rhythmic crash of waves, whilst seagulls circled overhead, hoping for dropped chips.*

#2: "But out beyond the laughter, joy and life... Somewhere she felt 'at home.'"

Strengths:

- You've established an interesting contrast between the busy shore and the quiet, deeper ocean, which shows that Elli seeks solitude.
- The idea that Elli has a special connection to the deeper ocean helps us understand her character.

Incomplete character motivation → Whilst you mention that Elli reflects about school and daydreams, you haven't shown us what she's actually thinking about or why the ocean feels like home to her. What specific thoughts run through her mind? What problems at school does she need to escape from? Without these details, Elli's connection to the ocean feels shallow. You could include a brief memory or specific worry that shows why this quiet space matters so much to her.

Exemplar: *She thought about the maths test next week and how Emma had stopped sitting with her at lunch. Out here, those worries seemed to dissolve into the vast water.*

#3: "A sharp, sudden tug came from under Elli... Then, everything went dark."

Strengths:

- Your action sequence moves quickly and creates tension, which keeps readers engaged during the shark attack.
- The visual detail of "crimson shooting through the water like a missile" is powerful and vivid.

Rushed sensory experience → The attack happens so quickly that we don't experience Elli's fear or confusion properly. What does the shark's skin feel like when it brushes against her? Can she taste salt water flooding her mouth? Does she try to scream? Does time feel slow or fast? Right now, you move straight from the bite to the blood to the rescue without pausing to show us what Elli experiences inside those terrifying moments. Slowing down this section would make it much more gripping.

Exemplar: *Panic exploded in Elli's chest. She tried to scream, but water rushed into her mouth, choking her. The shark's rough skin scraped her arm as it circled back, and she kicked frantically, her heart hammering so hard it hurt.*

■ Your piece has a clear structure with a peaceful beginning and a dramatic turning point, which shows you understand how to build a story. However, the writing would become much stronger if you focused on showing rather than telling. For example, instead of saying "The beach pulsed with joy and life," describe the actual things happening—what do you see, hear, and smell? Additionally, Elli needs more depth as a character. Why does she love the ocean so much? What's bothering her at school? When you give readers these specific details, they'll care more about what happens to her.

Your shark attack scene also needs more sensory details to feel real. What does Elli feel, taste, and think during those frightening seconds? Slowing down the action and describing her physical sensations would make readers feel like they're experiencing it with her. Also, your ending feels rushed. After such a terrifying event, Elli would have complicated feelings—perhaps nightmares, or looking at the ocean differently. Exploring these emotions in your final paragraph would create a more satisfying

conclusion. Think about adding one or two paragraphs showing how Elli's experience changed her relationship with the beach she once loved.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2

#1 The afternoon sun shone on the water, making it glimmer like a field of diamonds scattered across the endless blue. The tide was gentle, curling in like soft, woven silk, lapping at the shore with gentle rhythms. Warm sand stretched endlessly under lines of swaying palms, where families shared happiness. The beach pulsed with joy and life.

#2 But out beyond the laughter, joy and life, past the children jumping waves, the water darkened. The sounds of the rhythmic waves hitting the shore faded and ~~was~~ [were] replaced with calmness, stillness and silence. Elli visited the beach with her family every day of the summer holidays. She enjoyed laughing with her family, playing with her little brother Max and playing fetch with her dog. But sometimes, she ~~enjoys~~ [enjoyed] paddling out to the ocean where surfers surfed and gazing at the horizon. This part of the ocean was different. Elli could reflect about school in private, stare into the depths of the ocean, ~~daydream~~ [and daydream] about life. She felt like the deeper part of the ocean was her place. Somewhere she felt "~~at home.~~ ["at home."]

#3 Elli paddled further out, her surfboard gently rocking under her. She sat up and gazed at the incoming wave. It looked calm and glassy. Everything shimmered under that late afternoon glow. The gentle breeze, the ~~sun-soaked~~ [sun-soaked] sand and the cold water. ~~Everything was calm. Just stillness, calmness and peace.~~ [Everything felt calm—stillness, quiet, and peace surrounded her.] But that thought was shattered instantly. A sharp, sudden tug came from under Elli and it pulled her underwater. Her brain couldn't process what it was until the pain pulsed through her leg, crimson shooting through the water like a missile.

Blood shot out of her leg in thick clouds, ~~dying~~ [dyeing] the deep blue ocean a crimson red. Through the clouds of blood, Elli saw it. A great white. It was huge with rows of sharp ~~dagger-like~~ [dagger-like] teeth. Suddenly, Elli heard it. A ~~blow~~ [blast] of a sharp whistle at shore and heard a loud roaring sound

coming towards her. Two strong hands hauled her up onto a boat~~and~~ [, and] Elli felt weak [and] dizzy. Then, everything went dark.

Elli woke up in a hospital, her family gathered around her. "Are you alright?" Dad asked. Elli didn't answer. The next few days passed ~~with~~ [in] a blur of hospital visits and IV drips. Elli swore to herself she would never go far from shore. At least not anytime soon.