

Section 1

#1: "The air is thick with cinnamon and pepper curling into her nose bringing old memories back to life."

Strengths:

- Your use of sensory details (cinnamon and pepper) helps readers imagine the scene clearly
- The connection between smell and memory feels natural and realistic

Repetition → You've written this exact sentence twice in your piece—once at the beginning and again a few paragraphs later. When you repeat the same words without adding new information, it can make your writing feel like it's going in circles rather than moving forward. Readers might wonder why they're reading the same thing again.

Exemplar: *The air is thick with cinnamon and pepper, curling into her nose and bringing old memories back to life. Later, as she watches the caged bird, those same spices remind her of happier times before everything changed.*

#2: "Suddenly she sees the bird being brought up to a cage, that cage isn't just metal it is a mirror and today it represents her own emptiness."

Strengths:

- Your symbolic connection between the cage and mirror shows creative thinking
- The idea of the cage representing emptiness adds emotional depth

Run-on sentence → This sentence tries to express three different ideas (seeing the bird, describing the cage, explaining what it represents) all joined together without proper punctuation. This makes it hard for readers to pause and understand each idea separately. The phrase "being brought up to a cage" is also unclear—does someone carry the bird to the cage, or is the bird already there?

Exemplar: *Suddenly, she notices a bird inside a metal cage. The shiny bars reflect her face like a mirror, showing her own emptiness back to her.*

#3: "The bird in the cage represents how the character feels trapped and unable to escape her past."

Strengths:

- You clearly understand the symbolism you're creating

Telling instead of showing → This sentence explains the meaning of your symbol directly to the reader, almost like you're writing an essay about your story rather than letting the story speak for itself. When you tell readers what something represents, it takes away the chance for them to discover the meaning themselves, which is less engaging. Your earlier descriptions already show this idea through the bird's tired wings and the mirror-like cage.

Exemplar: *She pressed her palm against the cool metal bars, and the bird looked back at her with eyes that seemed to understand.*

■ Your piece creates a strong emotional mood through the trapped bird symbol, and you're clearly thinking about deeper meanings in your writing. However, your content would benefit from more development in certain areas. The first paragraph mentions "hand grinded spices" and "before the fire, before the betrayal," but these details appear suddenly without context, leaving readers confused about what happened. Additionally, you've included the same opening sentence twice, which makes your piece feel shorter than it actually is because you're reusing content.

To improve the substance of your writing, focus on expanding the middle section where you describe the character's feelings. Instead of stating "The bird in the cage represents how the character feels trapped," show us more specific memories or thoughts she has whilst watching the bird. What does she remember about her life before? What does freedom look like to her now? Also, consider removing the repeated sentence and replacing it with new details about the setting or the character's reactions. Your final explanatory sentence reads more like an essay conclusion than part of a story—try weaving that meaning into the action instead. Think about what the character might do next or what small detail she might notice that reveals her emotional state. Your symbolic thinking is strong, but your piece needs more concrete details and forward movement to bring that symbolism to life.

Overall Score: 3950

Section 2

~~The air is thick with cinnamon and pepper curling into her nose bringing old memories back to life.~~
[The air is thick with cinnamon and pepper, curling into her nose and bringing old memories back to life.] Her hand passes through ~~hand-grinded~~ [hand-ground] spices as her eyes ~~atches~~ [catch] the sight of a bird ~~she remember~~ [she remembers from] ~~it from her~~ childhood—**before the fire, before the betrayal.** ~~Suddenly she sees~~ [She watches] the bird ~~being brought up to~~ [inside] a cage. ~~that~~ [That] cage isn't just metal—**it is a mirror**, and today it represents her own emptiness. She watches the bird flap once, then sit still, its wings too tired to fly.

#1 The sky above her is grey and heavy, like it's holding back tears.

~~The air is thick with cinnamon and pepper curling into her nose, bringing old memories back to life.~~
[Sentence removed due to repetition] #2 Her eyes spot a bird she remembers from before the fire, before the betrayal. Now the bird is trapped in a cage, its wings folded tight. The cage is shiny like a mirror, showing her own face—quiet, lost, and alone. The bird in the cage is like her heart: once free, now stuck in a place that doesn't feel like home.

#3 ~~The bird in the cage represents how the character feels trapped and unable to escape her past.~~ [She pressed her palm against the cool metal bars, wondering if she would ever feel free again.]