

Section 1

#1: "The sweet smell of candy floss wafted through the air as a entered the carnival."

Strengths:

- You've used a sensory detail (smell) right at the beginning, which helps your reader imagine the carnival setting.
- The word "wafted" is a lovely, precise choice that shows how the smell moves gently through the air.

Unclear connection between ideas → Your piece jumps quite suddenly from entering the carnival to talking about magicians' card tricks without helping your reader understand why these ideas are connected. When you write "I haven't entered the fairgrounds since I found out the magicians' card tricks weren't done with a regular set of cards," your reader doesn't know what this means or why it matters to your story. What's special about these cards? Why would this discovery keep you away from the carnival? You need to add more information to bridge these ideas together so your reader can follow your thinking.

Exemplar: *I haven't visited the fairgrounds since the day I discovered the magicians were using trick cards with secret markings—cards designed to fool the audience. That discovery shattered my childhood wonder.*

#2: "The brightly coloured stalls haven't changed since then, and the addicting taste of churros haven't changed either."

Strengths:

- You're building on your sensory details by adding taste alongside the visual description of the stalls.
- Using "haven't changed" twice creates a pattern that shows time has passed but some things remain the same.

Subject-verb disagreement → When you write "the addicting taste of churros haven't changed," you've made a grammar mistake with matching your subject and verb. The subject of your sentence is "taste" (which is singular), but you've used "haven't" (which goes with plural subjects). You need to use "hasn't" instead because taste is just one thing. This kind of mistake can confuse your reader and makes your writing seem less polished.

Exemplar: *The brightly coloured stalls haven't changed since then, and the addicting taste of churros hasn't changed either.*

#3: "Grunts of disappointment arise from the games, so I go to study, and as I walk past I spot a true horror."

Strengths:

- You've built suspense by calling something a "true horror," which makes your reader curious about what you'll discover.
- The phrase "grunts of disappointment" uses sound to bring the carnival atmosphere to life.

Confusing word choice → When you write "so I go to study," the word "study" doesn't make sense in this sentence. Your reader will wonder what you mean—are you going to look at something carefully, or are you going somewhere to do schoolwork? In the context of your carnival setting, it seems like you mean you're going to look at or investigate the games, but "study" is too vague and creates confusion. You need a clearer word or phrase that shows exactly what action you're taking.

Exemplar: *Grunts of disappointment arise from the games, so I go to investigate, and as I walk past the ring toss booth, I spot a true horror.*

■ Your piece shows creativity in choosing an unusual symbol—playing cards at a carnival—and you've included some engaging sensory details like candy floss and churros that help bring the setting to life. However, your writing would benefit from clearer explanations of your main ideas. Right now, your reader doesn't understand why trick cards matter so much or what the connection is between glued cards and the magicians' tricks. You need to spell out these connections more clearly so your reader can follow your thinking. Additionally, your piece jumps between ideas quite quickly without smooth bridges between them. Try adding sentences that link one thought to the next, explaining how they

relate to each other. For example, after mentioning the trick cards, you could explain what you learned about them and how that made you feel before moving on to describe the carnival today. Also, your ending feels rushed—you introduce the "tubes of super glue" as a horror but don't explain why this discovery is significant or how it connects to your feelings about the magicians. Your reader needs more information to understand the full picture you're trying to paint.

Overall Score: 37/50

Section 2:

Symbol: a stack of playing cards

The sweet smell of candy floss wafted through the air as ~~a~~ **[I]** entered the carnival. **#1** I haven't entered the fairgrounds since I found out the magicians' card tricks weren't done with a regular set of cards. The brightly ~~coloured~~ **[coloured]** stalls haven't changed since then, and the ~~addicting~~ **[addictive]** taste of churros ~~haven't~~ **[hasn't]** changed either. **#2** As the gravel crunches and the melody of the merry-go-round rings in my ear, I can't stop thinking about the lies the cards told and how the magicians just went along with it. Grunts of disappointment arise from the games, so I go to ~~study~~ **[investigate]**, and as I walk past I spot a true horror. **#3** Tubes ~~on~~ **[upon]** tubes of super glue[—] this must be the ~~earnies~~ **[carnies']** playing cards.