

Section 1

#1: "James stretched his eyes along the fields, looking at the furthest point of view he can see. There. Once again, the huge body of water was spotted, blurred because of the distance between them."

Strengths:

- You've created a sense of mystery with the short sentence "There," which draws readers in
- The visual imagery of the blurred water helps readers picture what James sees

Vague spatial relationships → When you write "the distance between them," it's unclear who or what "them" refers to. Does it mean James and the water? The fields and the water? This confusion makes it harder for readers to understand the scene. Being more specific would help—for instance, you could say "the distance between him and the water" or simply "because it was so far away."

Exemplar: *The huge body of water appeared in the distance, its edges blurred and hazy because it was so far away.*

#2: "This often happened this year, for James' sight was getting worse and worse. His doctor said that he had a rare type of disease, which allowed his vision to start worsening until he dies or goes completely blind."

Strengths:

- You've introduced important information about James's condition that helps readers understand his behaviour
- The connection between his worsening sight and the disappearing river makes sense to readers

Confusing medical explanation → The phrase "allowed his vision to start worsening" sounds strange because diseases don't "allow" things—they cause them. Additionally, the shift from present tense ("his sight was getting worse") to future tense ("until he dies") creates confusion about timing. The medical explanation needs clearer language so readers can understand exactly what's happening to James.

Exemplar: *His doctor had told him he had a rare disease that would cause his vision to worsen progressively until he became completely blind.*

#3: "Wandering the fields aimlessly, James felt like a ghost that forgot everything, even how to see. After what seemed like forever, James heard the sound of rushing water."

Strengths:

- The comparison to a ghost creates a haunting mood that fits James's situation
- The sensory shift from sight to sound (hearing the water) works well given his vision problems

Unclear connection between ideas → Your writing jumps from James feeling lost to suddenly hearing water without explaining how he got there or what happened during his wandering. The sentence "After what seemed like forever" tells us time passed but doesn't show us anything about that time. This leaves a gap in the story where readers wonder what James was doing or thinking during his walk.

Exemplar: *After wandering for what felt like hours, his feet following the sloping ground without conscious thought, James heard the sound of rushing water.*

■ Your piece tackles an emotional topic—someone losing their sight—and you've captured the sadness of James wanting to remember what he sees. The core idea of photographing a river before going blind is touching and gives your story a clear purpose. However, your writing would benefit from deeper exploration of James's feelings. Right now, we know he's frustrated (he groans), but what else does he feel? Is he scared? Sad? Angry at the unfairness? Adding more of his inner thoughts would help readers connect with him emotionally.

Additionally, your story moves quite quickly from one moment to the next without giving readers time to fully experience each scene. When James finally reaches the river and sees it clearly, this should be a powerful moment, but it happens very suddenly. You could slow down here and spend more time describing not just what he sees, but how seeing it makes him feel. What memories does the river bring up? Why is this view so important to him?

Also, your descriptions sometimes rely on telling rather than showing. For example, you write "Knowing that this was likely the last time he would ever see this view" which explains his thoughts directly. Instead, you could show his emotions through his actions—perhaps his hands tremble as he touches the water, or tears blur his vision even more. These physical details would make the scene more vivid and emotional for readers. The ending feels a bit rushed too. What does James do after inspecting every detail? Does he take that photograph he wanted? Extending your conclusion would give the story a more satisfying finish.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2

#1 James stretched his eyes along the fields, looking at the furthest point ~~of view he can~~ [he could] see. There. Once again, the huge body of water ~~was spotted~~ [came into view], blurred because of the distance ~~between them~~ [from where he stood]. Hoping to finally take a photo and present it to his parents, he fumbled ~~out~~ [for] a camera, glancing at the river again. It was gone.

#2 This often happened this year, for James' sight was getting worse and worse. His doctor ~~said~~ [had told him] that he had a rare type of disease, which allowed [that caused] his vision to ~~start worsening~~ [worsen progressively] until he ~~dies or goes~~ [went] completely blind. He was very 'fortunate' that he ~~was blind~~ [had this condition], as the doctor had said. How? Fortunate?

James groaned, his patience slowly wearing ~~out~~ [thin] bit by bit. The sky ~~shook~~ [darkened], and he could spot ~~approaching~~ storm clouds ~~coming~~ [approaching]. He tried again to focus his already worsening sight on the clouds ~~once again~~, only to find his vision dim yet again. Straining his eyes, he set out for a hike around the fields, so that he could see them one last time before he ~~loses~~ [lost] his eyesight completely.

#3 Wandering the fields aimlessly, James felt like a ghost that ~~forgot~~ [had forgotten] everything, even how to see. After what seemed like forever, James heard the sound of rushing water. He had absent-mindedly followed the path to the river he ~~spotted~~ [had spotted earlier], not ~~knowing what he~~ ~~did~~ [fully aware of where his feet had taken him]. From a distance, the river ~~looked nothing like what it~~

is [had looked unremarkable, but up close it was transformed]. Sparkling blue liquid filled the river ~~to~~ [to] its brim, reflecting the azure blue sky ~~with~~ [on] its surface. Beneath the surface, fish and other animals swam ~~along~~ [among] the rocks at the bottom. Knowing that this was likely the last time he would ever see this view, or anything at all, he inspected every detail, so he could remember it.