

Section 1:

#1: "The rusty old man entered his own room trying to find all his memories, the music, the instrument, the life of his."

Strengths: Your opening creates an interesting character description with "rusty old man," which suggests age and weariness. You've also set up a clear purpose for the character—he's searching for meaningful parts of his past.

Unclear Character Action → The phrase "entered his own room" raises questions about where Jake was before this moment. If he's entering his own room, why does he need to search for his memories there? This makes the reader confused about whether Jake has forgotten his own home or if something else is happening. You might consider showing us why he's searching—perhaps he's just returned from somewhere, or maybe he has memory problems that would explain his confusion.

Exemplar: *The rusty old man stepped into the dusty room, desperate to find all his memories—the music, the instrument, the life that once filled this space.*

#2: "He followed the sound. Was it his thought or someone else playing it? He kept on walking. Was it his wife who left and wanted to see him again. He wondered 'Maybe someone bought his house and started playing it.'"

Strengths: You've built suspense well by asking questions that make the reader curious about the source of the music. The multiple possibilities you present (his thoughts, his wife, new owners) show Jake's confused state of mind.

Missing Punctuation and Unclear Sequence → Several sentences are missing proper punctuation marks, particularly question marks after "wanted to see him again." Additionally, the phrase "He wondered" appears after the question about his wife, which creates confusion about the order of his thoughts. The sentence "Maybe someone bought his house" is also confusing because earlier you wrote he "entered his own room," so readers don't understand if he still owns the house or not.

Exemplar: *He followed the sound, his heart pounding. Was it his own imagination, or was someone else playing? Could it be his wife, the one who left, now wanting to see him again? He wondered if perhaps someone had bought his house and taken up the guitar.*

#3: "Fine I will go to New York to see our son. You can stay here in Michigan!" She yelled. She shut the door and stormed away He performed in an concert and lived a life."

Strengths: You've shown conflict between Jake and Miranda, which adds emotional depth to your story. The specific locations (New York and Michigan) make the separation feel real and significant.

Abrupt Ending → Your story jumps suddenly from Miranda leaving to "He performed in an concert and lived a life" without showing us what happened in between or how much time passed. This ending feels rushed and doesn't give readers a satisfying conclusion. We don't know how Jake felt after Miranda left, whether they ever reconciled, or what "lived a life" actually means. The phrase "lived a life" is too vague—everyone lives a life, so this doesn't tell us anything meaningful about what happened to Jake.

Exemplar: *She slammed the door and stormed away. Jake stood alone in the silent house, clutching Betty close to his chest. That evening, he performed at a small concert hall, pouring his heartbreak into every note, finally understanding that his music had cost him the person he loved most.*

■ Your story has an interesting foundation about an elderly man torn between his passion for music and his relationship with his wife. However, your piece would benefit from clearer details about the setting and what's actually happening. Right now, readers can't tell if Jake owns the house, if he has memory problems, or why he's confused about his surroundings. You also need to develop the middle section of your story more fully—show us Jake's feelings and thoughts rather than jumping quickly from one event to another. Additionally, the ending needs much more detail to feel complete. Instead of saying "lived a life," show us specific moments: did he regret losing Miranda? Did he find happiness in his music? Did they eventually reunite? These concrete details will make your story more powerful. Also, work on your dialogue punctuation—remember that question marks go inside the quotation marks when a character asks a question. Finally, consider adding more sensory details throughout your writing. What did Betty the guitar look like? How did Miranda's voice sound when she was angry? These small touches will bring your characters and setting to life for your readers.

Overall Score: 37/50

Section 2:

#1 ~~The rusty old man entered his own room trying~~ [The rusty old man stepped into the dusty room, desperately trying] to find all his memories, the [—the] music, the instrument, the life ~~of his~~ [that once filled this space]. ~~Everything he wanted. Till~~ [He yearned for everything he'd lost. Then] he heard a perfect guitar song like ~~he~~ [the ones he'd] once played. He followed the sound. Was it his ~~thought~~ [imagination,] or ~~someone else playing it?~~ [was someone else playing?] He kept ~~on~~ walking. ~~Was it~~ [Could it be] his wife [—the one] who ~~left and~~ [had left—now] wanted to see him again [?]. He wondered [if] "~~Maybe~~ [perhaps] someone ~~bought~~ [had bought] his house and started playing ~~it~~ [the guitar]. He tried to find his memory. The wind whispered ~~in~~ [through] the house. He found ~~it~~ [her]. "~~Betty!~~" ["Betty!"] he cried in a hoarse voice [,] "I missed you. I was trying to find you!" Then a creak ~~whispered~~ [echoed]. Was it the new ~~owner~~ [owner] of this house? He saw ~~a~~ [an] old woman in a nightie. He gasped at the ~~old woman~~ [sight]. #2 "~~Jake. Put~~ ["Jake, put] that old rusty fragile thing away." [,] she ~~screached~~ [said] softly. " ["I] ~~I~~ will not put Betty the ~~Guitar~~ [guitar] away [,] Miranda! Betty is my life~!!!~" ["!"] He [he] yelled. at [yelled at] his life [wife]. #3 "Fine[Fine,] I will go to New York to see our son. You can stay here in Michigan!" She [she] yelled. She shut [slammed] the door and stormed away. [.] ~~He performed in an concert and lived a life.~~ [Alone in the silence, Jake clutched Betty to his chest. That evening, he performed at a local concert ~~hall~~, pouring his heartbreak into every note.]