

Section 1

#1: Opening paragraph and incident description (*"Tuesday lunchtime took a dramatic turn... SPLAT! Jelly flew through the air like a flying saucer on a mission."*)

Strengths:

- Your hook immediately grabs the reader's attention by promising something unusual happened during an ordinary lunch break
- The short, punchy sentence "The next — SPLAT!" creates excellent dramatic effect and helps readers visualise the moment

Underdeveloped scene-setting → Your opening moves very quickly from the setup to the action. Whilst this creates energy, your readers might benefit from knowing a bit more about the ordinary lunch scene before chaos erupts. For instance, what was the atmosphere like in 5 Green before the incident? Were students chatting, eating quietly, or rushing through lunch? This would make the contrast with the "jelly disaster" even stronger. Currently, we jump from "I was sitting nearby" straight to the jelly flying, which feels slightly rushed.

Exemplar: *Tuesday lunchtime in 5 Green was typically noisy but calm — students chatting over sandwiches, the smell of hot chips drifting from the canteen. I was sitting nearby when the peace shattered. One moment Leo was peeling the lid off his raspberry jelly pot. The next — SPLAT!*

#2: Witness accounts and reactions (*"It attacked me!" said Daisy... "My chicken wrap will never recover," Josh told me*)

Strengths:

- Your use of direct quotations from different witnesses gives the piece authenticity and varied perspectives
- Josh's quote about "jelly-wrapped sadness" shows personality and humour in your character voices

Limited exploration of reactions → Whilst you've included quotes from Daisy and Josh, your writing doesn't fully explore their emotions or the immediate aftermath of being hit. For example, after

Daisy says the jelly "attacked" her, we only learn she was wiping it from her blazer. What did she actually feel? Was she shocked, annoyed, or perhaps trying not to laugh? Similarly, Josh's ruined lunch gets a funny quote, but we don't learn whether he was genuinely upset or just playing along with the drama. Adding these emotional layers would make your characters feel more real.

Exemplar: *"It attacked me!" said Daisy, who was still wiping jelly from her blazer, her face a mixture of shock and disbelief. "I ducked, but it was too late. It hit me right in the eye!" She tried to sound annoyed, but a smile was already creeping across her face.*

#3: Resolution and conclusion (*"The canteen staff have since added a new rule... no one will ever look at jelly the same way again."*)

Strengths:

- The new rule about adult supervision adds a humorous "official response" that makes the incident feel significant
- Your final line provides a satisfying, reflective ending that ties the piece together

Rushed ending → Your conclusion wraps up several ideas in quick succession — the new rule, Leo's nickname, students avoiding pudding, and the final reflection — but each idea only gets one sentence. This makes the ending feel hurried rather than thoughtful. The mention of "5 Green history" is particularly interesting but unexplored. What makes this incident so memorable compared to other lunch mishaps? Why will students remember "The Jellynator" years from now? Your ending would be stronger if you selected one or two of these ideas and developed them more fully rather than listing four different consequences.

Exemplar: *This event will go down in 5 Green history — right alongside the Great Milk Spill of Year 4 and the time someone brought a pet mouse to school. Leo, now reluctantly known as "The Jellynator," insists he'll never touch jelly again. But everyone knows that by next week, the canteen will be back to normal. Well, almost normal. Because no one in 5 Green will ever peel a jelly lid without remembering that Tuesday afternoon when raspberry jelly declared war.*

■ Your piece captures the energy and humour of a classroom incident really well, and your reporter-style approach works effectively. The quotes feel genuine, and you've structured the writing logically from the incident through to its aftermath. However, your writing would benefit from

slowing down in places to add more depth. At the moment, you're moving quickly from one moment to the next, which creates pace but sometimes sacrifices detail. For instance, your opening paragraph could spend an extra sentence or two establishing the normal lunchtime scene, making the chaos more striking by contrast. Additionally, your middle section lists several consequences of the jelly incident — the toppled juice box, dropped fork, and mashed potato — but these details feel rushed. Could you select just one or two of these and describe them more vividly? Rather than simply stating "a toppled juice box," you might show the orange juice spreading across the table or dripping onto someone's shoe. This would help readers picture the scene more clearly. Also, think about varying your sentence lengths more deliberately. You use some excellent short sentences like "SPLAT!" and "The window!" but many of your other sentences are quite similar in length, which can make the writing feel a bit repetitive. Try mixing longer, descriptive sentences with punchy short ones to create more rhythm. Finally, your conclusion introduces several interesting ideas but doesn't fully explore any of them. Choose the most compelling aspect — perhaps Leo's embarrassment or the legacy of the incident — and develop it with specific details rather than listing multiple consequences briefly.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 Tuesday lunchtime took a dramatic turn in 5 Green when what started as an innocent snack turned into a full-blown jelly disaster.

I was sitting nearby when it happened. One moment Leo was peeling the lid off his raspberry jelly pot. The next — SPLAT! Jelly flew through the air like a flying saucer on a mission.

#2 "It attacked me!" said Daisy, who was still wiping jelly from her blazer. "I ducked, but it was too late. It hit me right in the eye!"

Several witnesses claim the jelly soared at least two tables across before landing on Josh's lunch. His expression said it all.

"My chicken wrap will never recover," Josh told me, holding up a very pink tortilla. "It's now jelly-wrapped sadness."

The incident caused a chain reaction: a toppled juice box, a dropped fork, and even a mashed potato splatter that somehow ended up on the floor. Mrs Thompson, the lunch monitor, arrived swiftly.

"There was jelly on the window," she confirmed. "The window!"

Leo, looking sticky and deeply embarrassed, admitted, "It was an accident. I didn't know jelly could be that powerful."

#3 The canteen staff have since added a new rule: no jelly lids are to be opened without adult supervision.

This event will go down in 5 Green history. Some are calling Leo "The Jellynator." Others are just avoiding pudding altogether.

One thing's for sure: no one will ever look at jelly the same way again.