

Section 1

#1 (Opening paragraph)

Strengths:

- Your descriptive language creates a clear picture of the library setting, using sensory details like the smell of old books and the sound of rain
- The atmosphere feels calm and welcoming, which suits a library scene well

Clashing Descriptors → You've written "silent sound of soft footsteps", which creates confusion because "silent" and "sound" work against each other. Something cannot be both silent and a sound at the same time. This makes the reader pause and wonder what you actually meant. Choose one approach – either the footsteps are so quiet they're almost silent, or they make a soft sound. Additionally, "pungent odour of aged books" suggests something strong and possibly unpleasant, but old books typically have a musty or gentle smell, not a sharp one.

Exemplar: *The atmosphere was filled with the musty scent of aged books and the soft padding of footsteps on the carpet.*

#2 (Jasmine's section and Leo's introduction)

Strengths:

- You show Jasmine's personality clearly through her actions and whispered reaction to her book
- The contrast between Jasmine's peaceful reading and Leo's panic adds variety to your piece

Abrupt Character Switching → Your writing jumps suddenly from Jasmine to Leo without helping the reader make the shift smoothly. After describing Jasmine's reaction and Mr Patel noticing her, you immediately start a new paragraph about Leo with no connection between them. This makes your piece feel choppy, like separate stories stuck together rather than one flowing narrative about the library. You've also written Leo's internal thought ("Why had he waited so long?") as dialogue with quotation marks and "he growled", which is confusing because growling suggests speaking aloud, but this seems to be a thought in his head.

Exemplar: *Meanwhile, across the library, Leo, a high-school student, sat at one of the computers, frantically typing. He had a science fair project due tomorrow and hadn't started it until today. "Why did I wait so long?" he muttered to himself, glancing at the clock.*

#3 (Final paragraphs from "Jasmine daydreamed" onwards)

Strengths:

- The collision between Jasmine and Leo creates a natural meeting point between characters
- The ending brings closure by showing everyone leaving and the library waiting for tomorrow

Underdeveloped Reflections → You've listed what each character thinks about (Jasmine wants to write, Mr Patel considers a writing club, Leo promises not to procrastinate, Ruth appreciates the library), but these thoughts appear as simple statements without depth or connection to what happened in the story. They feel rushed and separate from each other. The dialogue between Jasmine and Leo also feels stiff and unnatural – real conversations flow more smoothly. Your ending sentence "Each of them had a reason to come to the library, but it seemed to bring them together" tells us something you haven't actually shown happening in the story, since the characters barely interact.

Exemplar: *As closing time approached, Jasmine carefully marked her page, already imagining the adventures she might write about someday – perhaps a dragon rider who discovered ancient maps in a forgotten library. Mr Patel, noticing how absorbed she'd been, made a mental note to speak with her about starting a young writers' group.*

■ Your piece captures the gentle atmosphere of a library and introduces several characters with different reasons for being there, which shows you understand how to create a setting with multiple perspectives. However, your writing would benefit from smoother connections between ideas and characters. Right now, your story feels like separate snapshots placed side by side rather than scenes woven together. Think about how one moment leads naturally to the next – perhaps Mr Patel watches several people throughout the afternoon, creating a thread that ties everyone together.

Your character thoughts near the end need more development. Instead of simply telling us "Jasmine daydreamed about one day writing her own book", show us this thought connecting to something that just happened. Maybe she noticed the way Mr Patel carefully arranged books and thought about how she'd arrange words in her own story. Also, your dialogue between Jasmine and Leo needs to sound

more like how real people talk – add small words like "um" or "actually", or have them speak in longer exchanges that build a connection.

Additionally, watch for word choices that contradict each other or don't quite fit what you're describing. "Pungent" suggests something strong-smelling (often unpleasant), whilst "silent sound" creates an impossible combination. Choose words that work together to create the exact feeling you want. Finally, your ending tells us the library brought everyone together, but you haven't shown enough meaningful interaction to support this conclusion. Consider having characters notice each other more, or share a small moment that genuinely connects them before they leave.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2:

~~It was a rainy Wednesday afternoon, and the Maplewood Library was quietly busy. The atmosphere was made up of the pungent odour of aged books and the silent sound of soft footsteps on the carpet.~~
[#1 It was a rainy Wednesday afternoon, and the Maplewood Library was quietly busy. The atmosphere was filled with the musty scent of aged books and the soft padding of footsteps on the carpet.] All of them were in their own little universe, flipping pages, clacking away on the keyboard, or speaking softly to someone. The rain tapped rhythmically against the outside windows, but inside, time seemed to be moving more slowly. ~~The library was not a collection of buildings, stacked with books.~~ [The library was not merely a building stacked with books.] It was the place where people went to think, to dream, and sometimes just to catch their breath.

~~A seventh-grader named Jasmine sat cross-legged in the corner with a fantasy novel. She was up to Dragonfire Quest and couldn't believe the surprise that had just taken place.~~ [A seventh-grader named Jasmine sat cross-legged in the corner, absorbed in a fantasy novel. She was up to *Dragonfire Quest* and couldn't believe the surprise that had just unfolded.] "No way," she whispered, wide-eyed. For Jasmine, the library was a refuge from noisy siblings and boring chores. ~~Mr Patel~~ [Mr Patel,] the librarian, was shelving books just a few shelves away from the history shelves [section] and noticed Jasmine's reaction. He smiled to himself, remembering the way stories had gripped him in the same way as a child.

~~Leo, a high-school student, sat at one of the computers, frantically typing.~~ [#2 Meanwhile, across the library, Leo, a high-school student, sat at one of the computers, frantically typing.] He had a science fair project due tomorrow and hadn't started it until today. ~~"Why had he waited so long?" he growled, glancing at the clock. Two hours till closing time only.~~ ["Why did I wait so long?" he muttered to himself, glancing at the clock. Only two hours till closing time.] ~~The library was a last resort.~~ [The library had become his last resort.]

Grandma Ruth sat reading a picture book to her granddaughter in the children's room. Her voice was warm and soothing, and the little girl giggled at the silly ~~doodles~~ [illustrations]. Ruth had been going to Maplewood Library since she was a child. Now she was paying it forward.

~~Jasmine daydreamed about one day writing her own book, maybe something about dragons and secret maps. Mr Patel wondered if he would start a child's writing club similar to Jasmine's. Leo promised never to put things off again, although he probably would. Ruth was grateful for peaceful places like this where stories were shared from generation to generation.~~ [#3 As closing time approached, Jasmine carefully marked her page, already imagining the adventures she might write about someday – perhaps a dragon rider who discovered ancient maps in a forgotten library. Mr Patel, noticing how absorbed she'd been, made a mental note to speak with her about starting a young writers' group. Across the room, Leo frantically saved his work, silently vowing never to procrastinate again (though he suspected this promise wouldn't last). Ruth closed the picture book gently, grateful for peaceful places like this where stories were shared from generation to generation.]

As Jasmine was getting up to leave, she collided with Leo. "Sorry," she said. "It's fine," Leo replied, ~~massaging~~ [rubbing] his forehead. "You read a lot of fantasy?" Jasmine nodded. ~~"Yes. You?" "No, I prefer science. But I think dragons are nice."~~ ["Yeah, pretty much. What about you?" "Not really – I'm more into science. But dragons are pretty cool, I guess."] They smiled and went their separate ways, both a bit less lonely.

Mr Patel watched the exchange and jotted down ~~to put up~~ [a reminder to post] a notice for a teen book club. Perhaps something good would come of today after all. ~~It had previously rained. It ceased now.~~ [The rain had stopped.] The ~~individuals~~ [visitors] folded their things and departed. Mr Patel turned off the ~~light~~ [lights] and locked the door. The books inside rested in quiet, ~~expecting~~ [awaiting] tomorrow's ~~audience~~ [readers]. ~~Each of them had a reason to come to the library, but it seemed to bring them together.~~ [Each person had arrived with their own purpose, but somehow, the library had woven their separate stories into something shared.]