

## Section 1

### #1: Opening paragraph ("Dear Diary, Today, my life changed forever...")

#### Strengths:

- You've created an engaging hook that makes readers curious about what sport changed your life
- The diary format gives your writing a personal, authentic voice that draws readers in

**Weak character motivation** → Your narrator says their life "changed forever," but this feels too strong for simply noticing a sport they hadn't paid attention to before. The opening promises a massive transformation, but what follows is just watching friends play netball at lunch. Consider showing us *why* this moment felt so life-changing instead of just telling us it was. What made this particular day different from all the other days when you watched your friends play?

**Exemplar:** *Today started like any other lunch break, but by the time the bell rang, I'd discovered something that would become my greatest passion.*

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### #2: Middle section ("I didn't really know what the centre really did... Don't you agree, Diary?")

#### Strengths:

- You've built good tension by making your character play the most important position despite being inexperienced
- The detail about Annie Blake being your rival adds conflict to the scene

**Underdeveloped emotional response** → You tell us your character was "terrified" about being Centre, but we don't see or feel that terror. What did being terrified look like? Did your hands shake? Did your heart race? Did you consider refusing to play? Instead of just naming the emotion, show us how your character experienced it through their thoughts, physical sensations, or actions. This would help readers feel the nervousness alongside you.

**Exemplar:** *My stomach dropped when they said "Centre." I looked at the court, then at my friends' expectant faces, and felt my palms start to sweat. How was I supposed to be the most important player when I could barely remember the rules?*

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### #3: Climax section ("But when Annie got the ball... grabbed, and climbed back down")

#### Strengths:

- The moment when the ball gets stuck creates an exciting turning point in your narrative
- Your character's decision to take action shows good character development

**Rushed pacing at the crucial moment** → This is the most important scene in your entire piece—the moment that supposedly changes everything—but it happens in just a few sentences. "So I ran. I ran all the way to the fence and climbed at the top, grabbed, and climbed back down." We need much more detail here! Was the fence difficult to climb? Were you scared of heights? Did anyone try to stop you? What were you thinking as you climbed? This deserves at least a full paragraph with sensory details (what you saw, heard, felt) to make readers experience this brave moment with you.

**Exemplar:** *Without thinking, my legs carried me toward the fence. Up close, it looked much taller than I'd thought. The metal was cold under my fingers as I found my first foothold. Don't look down, I told myself. One hand over the other, one foot higher than the last. My friends' voices faded below me as I focused on reaching that ball wedged at the very top.*

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■ Your diary entry tells an interesting story about discovering netball, but it needs more showing and less telling to really bring your experience to life. Right now, you've summarised what happened rather than letting readers experience it with you. For example, when you write about Annie taunting you since kindergarten, you simply state "she has bullied me even more" without giving us a single specific example of what she actually did or said. This makes it hard for readers to understand why Annie is such an important rival in your story.

The biggest area to strengthen is your descriptions of key moments. Your character supposedly discovers their passion for netball, but we don't really see *why* netball became special to you. What about climbing that fence made you feel differently about the sport? Was it the cheering from your friends? The look on Annie's face? The rush of accomplishment? Additionally, your middle paragraphs feel repetitive—you mention multiple times that you found netball boring and didn't understand why

you were chosen as Centre. Try cutting some of this repetition and using that space to develop the exciting parts instead.

The ending also needs work. You jump from retrieving the ball straight to "ever since then, I have played netball as my passionate sport" without showing us what happened immediately after you climbed down. Did your friends celebrate? Did the game continue? Did you play differently after proving yourself? These missing details would help readers understand your transformation. Also, consider developing the final paragraph about your relationship with Annie—right now, it's just one sentence about "the chocked and dirty look" she gave you, but this could be a powerful ending if you expanded it to show how your action changed the way she treated you.

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**Overall Score: 41/50**

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## Section 2

Dear Diary,

**#1** Today, my life changed forever when I noticed a sport that I hadn't paid attention to for so long!

It was at lunch today when I was putting my lunch away in the tubs. I was always the slowest eater in my group; all my other friends were playing netball as soon as they finished. Sometimes, I would agree to it, but I merely just thought of it as a sport where you simply ~~just~~ passed the ball to another teammate. *How boring is that?* I thought, as I sauntered grumpily towards my friends, ~~who were~~ playing ~~a game of~~ netball.

**#2** My friends had never played a real game of netball in the playground before. Normally, there was ~~one netball court~~ only, ~~and~~ **only one netball court, which** the boys would always take, **because as** they wanted to play their own little version of basketball. But today, they seemed interested in something else. ~~It seemed like a tip game, or maybe hide-and-seek.~~ **Perhaps it was tip, or maybe hide-and-seek.** But whatever they were playing, they didn't seem interested in taking the court. So when we looked around to see if ~~any people~~ **anyone** ~~were~~ **was** playing ~~in on~~ the court, we stepped right in and decided to play a mini version of a netball game.

I decided to join in, as I wanted to really see how interesting a real game of netball looked ~~like~~ [delete].

We counted the number of players in our group. It was just the right amount of people, as we needed a few people to sit out for some rounds as well to keep the ~~scoring~~ **score**. I didn't want to be one of those people, so luckily, I was given one of the most important positions in the whole game: Centre.

I didn't really know what the ~~centre~~ **Centre** really did, so when a few friends told me that the Centre was the most important player ~~of in~~ the game, I was terrified. I didn't even know why they put me ~~as in~~ the most important ~~player of~~ **position in** the game. Why would they put me in the most important role when I didn't even have that much ~~of an~~ interest in netball? Don't you agree, Diary?

And most importantly, the Centre ~~in on~~ the other team was my lifelong rival, Annie Blake.

Since ~~Kindigarden~~ **Kindergarten**, when I first joined this school, Annie used to taunt me all the time. She made fun of my hair, **and** my clothes, and that was all that mattered. Since then, she has bullied me even more, and I think she will keep ~~tainting~~ **taunting** me still, even though that part which I am going to tell you about might have changed the way she thought of me at first.

**#3** Well, when the game started, it was boring at first. Annie always got the ball, and sometimes, when the teacher wasn't looking at her, she would sneak a grim, nasty look that sent shivers down my spine. But then it got more and more competitive, and my friends urged me to try my best, even though to me, it felt like a normal game in a normal place with normal schoolchildren.

But when Annie got the ball, I felt a sudden sensation in my stomach. — ~~A a~~ **a** sensation that ~~wanted~~ **urged** me to prove myself to everyone. ~~But that was when it happened. That was when it happened.~~

The ball landed in the fence.

Everyone gasped in shock. The ball was stuck at the very top of the fence, where even the teachers, with ~~a~~ **their** tremendous height, couldn't reach. *This is the chance to prove yourself*, I thought.

So I ran.

I ran all the way to the fence and climbed ~~at to~~ the top, grabbed **the ball**, and climbed back down.

Everyone was staring at me ~~dumbfoundedly~~ **in stunned silence**. It was as if I ~~wasn't~~ **was** the one and only person who ~~saved~~ **had saved** the day.

So ~~diary~~ **Diary**, ever since then, I have played netball as my passionate sport. It has inspired me over the years as it gave me a chance to prove who I really was. And ~~diary~~ **Diary**, I still remember, over all those years, the ~~choked~~ **shocked** and dirty look Annie gave me when I came back with the ball.

How funny it was, Diary!

Till next time,

~~You~~ **Your** ~~owner~~ friend