

Section 1

#1: Opening paragraph

- *"Dear Diary, Today my life changed forever when I tried to steal one of my classmate's key chains... It was an experience I will never forget."*

Strengths:

- Your opening immediately grabs attention by stating this was a life-changing moment, which makes readers want to continue
- You honestly admit to doing something wrong, showing bravery in your writing

Vague impact statement → Whilst you mention this experience changed your life "forever," you don't explain *how* it changed you in this opening. The phrase "haunted me down" is a good start, but readers need more specific feelings. What exactly did you feel when you saw your classmate's face? Were you scared? Ashamed? Sick to your stomach? These precise emotions would help readers understand the weight of what happened.

Exemplar: *The guilt twisted in my stomach like a knot pulling tighter and tighter, and I couldn't stop seeing the shock and hurt in her eyes even when I closed my own.*

#2: The stealing scene

- *"So when she told me she needed to go to the bathroom, I was overjoyed. I went to the bag section and checked if she actually left. Then I unhooked the keychain and put it in my pocket."*

Strengths:

- Your sequence of events is clear and easy to follow
- The word "overjoyed" effectively shows how caught up you were in the plan

Rushed pacing → This is the most important moment in your diary entry, yet it happens very quickly in just three short sentences. You tell us the actions (checked, unhooked, put in pocket) but not what

was happening inside your mind and body. Were your hands shaking? Did you keep looking over your shoulder? Did your heart pound? Slowing down this moment and adding sensory details would make readers feel like they're right there with you.

Exemplar: *My hands trembled as I reached for the keychain, and I could hear my own heartbeat thudding in my ears. I glanced around one more time, my breath caught in my throat, before I quickly unhooked it and shoved it deep into my pocket.*

#3: The resolution

- *"I rushed to the sandpit and secretly put it in. Then I fished it out and ran over to where she was and declared that I had found the keychain."*

Strengths:

- You show quick thinking in your attempt to fix the situation
- The action of pretending to find it demonstrates how guilt pushed you to act

Shallow emotional exploration → Your plan to "find" the keychain is described, but we don't get enough insight into your conflicting feelings during this moment. You were trying to stop her tears, but you were also lying again. This inner battle between wanting to help and knowing you were being dishonest deserved more attention. Phrases like "couldn't help feeling guilty" tell us your emotion, but showing it through your thoughts or physical reactions would be much more powerful.

Exemplar: *As I ran towards her with the keychain in my hand, relief and shame battled inside me. I wanted so badly to see her smile again, but each step felt heavier because I knew I was adding another lie on top of my theft.*

■ Your diary entry tackles an important topic—learning from mistakes—and you've structured it with a clear beginning, middle and end. However, your writing would benefit greatly from slowing down during the crucial moments and digging deeper into your emotions. Rather than telling readers you felt guilty or that this changed you, show these feelings through specific details about what was happening in your body and mind. For example, when you saw your classmate crying, what did that moment feel like? Did time seem to slow down? Did you want to disappear? Additionally, your second and third paragraphs could be expanded to help readers truly understand the temptation you felt and

the weight of your decision. When you describe the keychain as "flawless in any angle," you could add more about why it mattered so much to you—was it just about the object, or did it represent something else like feeling forgotten by your parents? Also, your final paragraph wraps up the lesson quickly, but you could strengthen it by explaining specific ways this experience has actually changed your behaviour since that day. Instead of just saying you'll "ask nicely," you might share a moment where you were tempted again but made a different choice. These additions would transform your diary entry from a simple retelling of events into a deeply reflective piece that helps readers connect with your journey.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2

Dear Diary,

#1 Today, my life changed forever when I tried to steal one of my classmate's ~~key chains~~ [keychains]. I would never steal as I was too clumsy and too loud ~~but~~ [, but] the keychain made it tempting. However, the look on my classmate's face haunted me ~~down~~ [—this vivid memory still lingers in my mind—] when I slipped it in my pocket. It was an experience I will never forget.

#2 It all happened when I went to school and found a myriad of students hogging a bag. Curious as usual, I went over there and found the dream keychain I wanted for my birthday. The keychain I wanted for ages was a miniature bubble tea keychain ~~and~~ [, and] it was flawless ~~in~~ [from] any angle. I wanted that keychain for my last birthday ~~but~~ [, but] apparently my parents forgot to buy it for me. ~~But~~ ~~just~~ [Just] as I was admiring the keychain, a strange feeling washed over me. ~~And that~~ [That feeling] was jealousy.

I put my plan ~~straight away~~ [into action straight away]. I ~~was pretending~~ [pretended] to be one of her friends ~~and then~~ [, and then,] without her noticing, I ~~put~~ [slipped] it ~~in~~ [into] my pocket. So when she told me she needed to go to the bathroom, I was overjoyed. I went to the bag section and checked if she ~~actually~~ [had actually] left. Then I unhooked the keychain and put it in my pocket. After that, I went to the hallway to pretend like a good friend and waited for her return. But when she returned and found out that her ~~favourite~~ [favourite] keychain was gone, she broke into tears.

#3 Guilt washed over me as I told her we could split up and look everywhere for it. I rushed to the sandpit and secretly put it in. Then I fished it out and ran over to where she was and declared that I had found the keychain. She stopped crying and gave me a smile. Even ~~if~~ [though] I was off the hook~~I~~ [, I] couldn't help feeling guilty, because I ~~know~~ [knew] that I ~~have~~ [had] hurt somebody's feelings because of my actions.

From that day ~~onward~~ [onwards], stealing has really changed me. The look of my classmate crying made a mark inside me. I will not steal for something my parents didn't buy for me and instead ask for it nicely ~~instead~~.

From,
Cherry