

Section 1

#1: "I should have known the parcel wasn't meant for me when I saw the neat cursive handwriting written on the side of the parcel. She had been dead for 6 months and a week (which I believe is quite a long time), which made receiving such a large parcel from her was either simply a miracle or a clerical error."

Strengths:

- Your opening immediately creates mystery and hooks the reader's attention by mentioning someone who has died
- The narrator's personality shows through clearly with the parenthetical comment about time

Repetitive phrasing → You've used the word "parcel" twice in the opening sentence, which makes the writing feel clunky. The phrase "which made receiving" also creates an awkward grammatical structure that interrupts the flow of your ideas. When you write, try reading sentences aloud to catch words that appear too close together or phrases that don't sound smooth.

Exemplar: *I should have known the package wasn't meant for me when I saw the neat cursive handwriting on its side. She had been dead for six months and a week (which I believe is quite a long time), so receiving such a large parcel from her was either a miracle or a clerical error.*

#2: "When I finally decided to slit the tape with half a scissor (I couldn't find a knife or a butter knife), I neatly Moved the packing peanuts into a blue bucket I had grabbed just before. The huge cardboard box merely had a singular item."

Strengths:

- The detail about using "half a scissor" adds realistic character detail
- Your word choice of "merely had a singular item" builds anticipation effectively

Unclear transitions and unnecessary capitalisation → The phrase "just before" leaves readers wondering—before what? This vague reference makes your writing confusing. You've also capitalised "Moved" in the middle of a sentence, which is incorrect. Additionally, "half a scissor" should be "half of

the scissors" since scissors are always plural. Pay attention to these small details because they can distract readers from your story.

Exemplar: *When I finally decided to slit the tape with one blade of the scissors (I couldn't find a knife or butter knife), I neatly moved the packing peanuts into a blue bucket beside me. The huge cardboard box contained only a single item.*

#3: "At the bottom in her unforgettable script: 'For Emma. This is the Real world. The other only tells locations.' I traced my finger along the way from the Town Of Nature to home and saw so many secrets revealed. I never had noticed that the books on display outside of Dimmy's Book World made a rainbow with their covers. I never realized that the curtains at old uncle John's window were closed daily at 9:46 at the 53 second. I never saw these things but my mother did. She's noticed everything."

Strengths:

- The specific details (rainbow of book covers, exact time of curtain closing) paint a vivid picture of the mother's observant nature
- The emotional heart of your story shines through powerfully here

Tense confusion and missing punctuation → You've switched between past tense ("never had noticed," "never realized") and present tense ("She's noticed") in confusing ways. The phrase "I never had noticed" uses an incorrect past perfect construction—it should be "I had never noticed" or simply "I never noticed." You're also missing a comma after the introductory phrase "At the bottom in her unforgettable script." The time "9:46 at the 53 second" is awkward—it should be "at the 53rd second" or "and 53 seconds." These errors pull readers out of the emotional moment you've created.

Exemplar: *At the bottom, in her unforgettable script: 'For Emma. This is the real world. The other only tells locations.' I traced my finger along the path from the Town of Nature to home and saw so many secrets revealed. I had never noticed that the books on display outside Dimmy's Book World formed a rainbow with their covers. I had never realised that the curtains at old Uncle John's window closed daily at 9:46 and 53 seconds. I never saw these things, but my mother did. She noticed everything.*

■ Your piece has a beautiful emotional core—the idea of a daughter discovering how her mother saw the world differently is touching and meaningful. The contrast between Emma's careful, controlled personality and her mother's spontaneous, observant nature creates strong conflict. However, your

writing would benefit from smoother sentence construction throughout. Many of your sentences feel choppy or have awkward phrasing that interrupts the flow of ideas. For example, in your first paragraph, you list Emma's habits (checking expiration dates, reading manuals 24 times), but these details feel forced rather than naturally woven into the story.

Additionally, your middle paragraph describing the map could be expanded. You tell us the map is beautiful, but readers need more sensory details to truly picture it. What colours did the mother use? How did the paper feel? What smell did it have? These concrete details will help readers connect emotionally to this precious object.

Also, your final revelation feels rushed. You mention the rainbow of books and Uncle John's curtains, but these observations appear suddenly without building up to them. Try showing Emma's journey of discovery more gradually—perhaps have her study the map for longer, noticing one detail at a time. This would make the ending feel more earned and powerful. Your punctuation needs attention too, particularly with capitalisation and comma placement, which sometimes makes sentences harder to follow than they should be.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2:

I should have known the parcel wasn't meant for me when I saw the neat cursive handwriting written on ~~the side of the parcel~~ [its side]. She had been dead for ~~6~~ [six] months and a week (which I believe is quite a long time), ~~which made receiving such a large parcel from her was~~ [so receiving such a large parcel from her was] either simply a miracle or a clerical error. #1 I'm not the sort of person miracles happen to. I'm the sort of person who checks the expiration date of a snack every ~~2~~ [two] days, reads instruction manuals 24 times a day [,] and arranges my books in perfect alphabetical order.

The package had been on the kitchen counter for ~~3~~ [three] days. I walked past it ~~23~~ [23] times—I counted—before I opened it. My mother would have torn open the box immediately, scattering contents like packing peanuts, ~~Styrofoam~~ [styrofoam] blocks [,] and other sorts of items. She would then ~~be~~ [have been] exclaiming over what she had been sent before sending a three-hundred-word, [,] 'Thank You [thank you]'; [,] letter showing her gratitude. I am not my mother. I may have inherited

her jet-black hair and inability to click her fingers, [,] but not her ability to show a vast capacity ~~of~~ [for] spontaneous joy.

#2 When I finally decided to slit the tape with ~~half a scissor~~ [one blade of the scissors] (I couldn't find a knife or a butter knife), I neatly ~~Moved~~ [moved] the packing peanuts into a blue bucket I had grabbed ~~just before~~ [beside me]. The huge cardboard box ~~merely had a singular item~~ [contained only a single item]. A map. Not a regular map like the kind you find at petrol stations ~~and~~ [or] download on your newly acquired iPhone 17 Pro Max. No. Not at all like any of those. It was hand-drawn on a thick sheet that seemed like silk but slightly stiffer, with tiny illustrations in the margins: a compass rose that looked like a maroon flower, a sea serpent coiled around the legend [,] and mountains rendered in such exquisite detail you could almost feel their slate faces. It was a map of our village. But not the ~~Village~~ [village] I see out the window. The ~~Village~~ [village] as my mum saw it: the museum labelled [,] 'Palace of Ben History'; [,] the park marked [,] 'Town of Nature'; [,] my primary school I used to go to was dubbed the Hall of Unsolvable Puzzles. Every landmark had been given a new name, reimagined and recreated into a mystical world.

#3 ~~At the bottom~~ [At the bottom,] in her unforgettable script [:] "~~For Emma. This is the Real world~~ [For Emma. This is the real world]. The other only tells locations." I traced my finger along the ~~way~~ [path] from the Town ~~Of~~ [of] Nature to home and saw so many secrets revealed. I ~~never had noticed~~ [had never noticed] that the books on display outside ~~of~~ [**remove**] Dimmy's Book World made a rainbow with their covers. I never ~~realized~~ [realised] that the curtains at old ~~uncle~~ [Uncle] John's window were closed daily at 9:46 ~~at the 53 second~~ [and 53 seconds]. I never saw these things [,] but my mother did. ~~She's~~ [She] noticed everything.