

## Section 1

**#1: "I pushed my way through the cluster of unfamiliar students, when suddenly, a familiar face. Very familiar."**

### Strengths:

- Your opening creates immediate curiosity by introducing an unexpected encounter
- The repetition of "familiar" and "very familiar" effectively emphasises the recognition

**Incomplete sentence structure** → Your opening uses a fragment ("a familiar face") that, while creating dramatic effect, doesn't form a complete thought. This makes the moment feel choppy rather than smooth. Consider completing the sentence: *"I pushed my way through the cluster of unfamiliar students, when suddenly, I spotted a familiar face—very familiar."*

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**#2: The dialogue exchange about the locket and promise**

### Strengths:

- Your quick back-and-forth dialogue creates realistic tension between characters
- The repetition of "Remember what?" shows the narrator's confusion naturally

**Missing dialogue tags and unclear speaker identification** → Throughout your conversation, readers struggle to track who's speaking because you haven't included enough tags like "he said" or "I replied." When you write "I know" "You still have it?" "Have what?" in rapid succession, it becomes confusing. Including tags would clarify: *"I know," I replied quietly. "You still have it?" he asked.*

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**#3: "A small grin tugged at my lips as he stood up and walked away, memories flooding my mind. Maybe we could."**

### Strengths:

- Your ending leaves the story open with hope, which matches the reunion theme

- The phrase "memories flooding my mind" effectively shows the narrator's emotional shift

**Vague and underdeveloped resolution** → Your ending feels rushed because you haven't shown us what changed the narrator's mind. The shift from "We've grown apart" to "Ok" and then "Maybe we could" happens too quickly without explaining why the narrator suddenly feels hopeful. What about seeing the drawing made them change their mind? Adding a sentence about the specific memory or feeling would strengthen this: *"Looking at my childish drawing, I remembered how we used to laugh together for hours. Maybe we could find that again."*

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■ Your piece tells an emotionally engaging story about reconnecting with an old friend, and the central conflict—whether to rebuild a broken friendship—comes through clearly. However, your narrative would benefit from deeper emotional exploration. You've created the skeleton of a touching reunion, but you need to add more flesh to the bones. For instance, when your narrator sees the drawing, what specific emotions do they feel? Embarrassment? Nostalgia? Joy? These details would help readers connect more deeply with the moment. Additionally, your story jumps between tenses ("creased" vs "hung") and lacks smooth transitions between dialogue and action. When your character touches the locket or shifts on the bench, these physical details are good, but they need clearer connection to the emotional journey. Also, consider expanding the middle section where the locket opens—this is your story's turning point, yet it feels rushed. What do they remember about that birthday? Why did they stop being friends? Answering these questions would give your story the substance it needs. Finally, work on varying your sentence structure; many sentences follow the same pattern, which makes the rhythm feel repetitive.

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**Score: 39/50**

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## Section 2

Reunion

I pushed my way through the cluster of unfamiliar students, when [when] suddenly, ~~a familiar face.~~  
~~Very familiar.~~ [I spotted a familiar face—very familiar.] We pushed through the crowd and sat down, a  
silent agreement hanging between us.

#1 "It's been a long time," he said, breaking the silence.

"I know [, I replied.]

"You still have it?" ~~"Have what?" "The locket" "What locket" "The one on your neck"~~ [he asked.

"Have what?"

"The locket."

"What locket?"

"The one on your neck." [ He gestured to my hand, clamped around the locket. [ I] paused, then  
stuttered [, "Oh... yeah [.]

"Remember it now?"

"Remember what?"

"Your promise [.]

I sighed and shook my head. "I've never promised anything [.]

~~"Yes you have"~~ [, you have."]

"It's been five years, even if I did [.]

"No, six [.]

"It doesn't matter [.]

He paused, then ~~replying~~ [replied,] "It matters that you promised me [.]

"No, I didn't [.] My eyebrow twitched, ~~the~~ [then] creased. We hung in silence, a delicate thread,  
[—]able to be broken by the lightest touch.

#2 "Fine [, I grunted, hands [, my hands] brushing the edge of my shirt.

I opened the locket, taking out the small photo. I quickly glanced over it, [—]a photo of his twelfth birthday.

"Now do you remember?"

I paused, before replying [, "Remember what?" ["]

"The party, silly [!"]

A bead of sweat cascaded down my cheek~~and~~ [, and] I shifted on the hard metal bench.

"You invited me to your tenth birthday?" I questioned.

"Yes, you gave me a matching locket that matched yours!"

I subtly smiled, but without the eye crinkle. His face was suddenly dominated by his massive smile~~post~~  
~~to post~~ [from ear to ear].

"You loved to draw [, he said" And?" [.

"And?"]

"I remember the drawing you enclosed in here [." ] He gestured towards his locket, identical to mine~~He~~  
[. He] opened it, the click flashing memories in my mind.

"Here." He showed me my ~~intimidation~~ [imitation] of *The Starry Night*, with imperfect edges and wrong texture.

"We stopped a long time ago [, " I insisted~~He~~ [.

He] paused before saying [, "We can continue [." ]

"We've grown apart [." ]

"We can restart: [—]we're both new," [." ]

"~~Ok~~ [Okay." ]

**#3** A small grin tugged at my lips as he stood up and walked away, memories flooding my mind. Maybe we could.