

Section 1

#1: Opening Paragraph "The highway remained the same with the same signs. I knew roadwork was going to come sixty kilometres later. A car sped past us. It was my long-lost friend since childhood, Timber."

Strengths:

- Your opening creates immediate action by showing something happening on the highway
- You introduce an interesting character from the narrator's past, which makes readers curious

Unclear Connection Between Ideas → Your sentences feel disconnected from each other. The first sentence talks about the highway, then jumps to roadwork, then suddenly a car appears with Timber inside. There's no explanation of how you recognised Timber in a speeding car or why this meeting is important. The sentence "I know from the past that Timber said, 'There is no need to look at the signs until I am allowed to drive'" appears out of nowhere and confuses readers because it's not clear when Timber said this or how it relates to the current moment.

Exemplar: *I drove down the familiar highway, watching the same signs flash past. Sixty kilometres ahead, I knew roadwork would slow traffic. Suddenly, a car roared past us—and I glimpsed the driver's face. Could it really be Timber, my childhood friend I hadn't seen in years?*

#2: The Conversation About Work Problems "Good for now because I am on vacation. In general, I have an issue in work because people make fun of me for not doing enough work in my team.' 'Because I got promoted and now, I must lead a team of fifty people, which is a lot, and then I struggled with it.'"

Strengths:

- You show that the narrator has real problems in their life, which makes the character feel more believable
- The detail about leading fifty people helps readers understand why the job is difficult

Sudden Emotional Shift → Your narrator jumps from casually chatting to crying without building up the emotion properly. The line "I cried" appears immediately after discussing work problems, but

nothing in the conversation shows the narrator getting more and more upset. Readers need to see the feelings growing stronger before someone starts crying. Also, the conversation feels too formal and stiff—people talking whilst driving don't usually speak in such complete, structured sentences like "How may that feel?"

Exemplar: *My throat tightened as I spoke. "The team is huge—fifty people. Everyone expects me to know what I'm doing, but I don't. Some days I think they'll just... fire me." I felt tears pricking at my eyes. "I can't handle losing another job, Timber. I just can't."*

#3: The Emoji Pillow Discussion "It is an emoji pillow from my childhood. It is a memory from when I learnt to sew. Have you ever learnt to sew?' 'No, I have not learnt to sew. I found it tough.' 'It was compulsory in our later childhood days in my area.'"

Strengths:

- You add a specific object (the emoji pillow) that tells us something about the narrator's past
- The detail about sewing being compulsory helps readers understand the narrator's background

Missing Emotional Connection → After the narrator just cried about losing their job, they suddenly switch to talking about a pillow as if nothing serious just happened. This feels unnatural because when someone is upset about something important, they don't instantly forget about it and start discussing childhood crafts. The conversation about sewing also doesn't go anywhere meaningful—Timber and the narrator exchange basic facts but there's no real connection or deeper meaning. The phrase "Everyone knows that life is very tricky with twists and turns and difficulties" feels like a random wise saying that doesn't fit the conversation.

Exemplar: *Timber glanced at the emoji pillow on my passenger seat. "You still have that old thing?" A small smile crept onto my face despite my tears. "I made it when I was ten, remember? You laughed at my wonky stitches, but I kept it anyway. It reminds me that even when things seem impossible, I can figure them out eventually."*

■ Your piece tells the story of two old friends meeting on the highway and having a conversation, which is an interesting idea. However, the writing needs stronger connections between ideas and more natural dialogue. Right now, your characters speak in very formal, stiff sentences that don't sound like

real people talking whilst driving. Additionally, the emotional moments need more development—you can't have someone cry without showing their feelings building up first. Your piece would be much stronger if you showed why the reunion with Timber matters to the narrator and how their shared history affects the conversation. Also, try to connect your ideas more smoothly—when you mention the messy house, explain why that memory matters right now; when the narrator cries, show them getting more upset gradually; when they change the subject to the pillow, explain why they need to talk about something else. The ending feels rushed because the narrator suddenly says goodbye without any reason being given for why they need to stop. Think about adding more details about what the characters are feeling and why they react the way they do. This will help your readers understand and care about what's happening in your story.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2

Part 1 The highway remained the same[with the same signs. I knew roadwork was going to ~~come~~ [appear] sixty kilometres later. A car sped past us. It was my long-lost friend since childhood, Timber. #1 ~~I know from the past that Timber said, 'There is no need to look at the signs until I am allowed to drive.'~~ [I remembered Timber once saying, 'There's no need to look at the signs until I'm allowed to drive.']

My homework gets ~~organised~~ [organised] in a routine, and my loose notetaking papers get punched by me in a folder. However, when I used to go to Timber's house for outings, the whole house was messy, especially Timber's room.

When I caught up, I opened the window of the car and waved at Timber. In return, Timber waved back, and we had a little conversation. #2

~~"Nice to meet you. How is life going," I initiated.~~ ["Nice to meet you. How is life going?" I initiated.]

~~"Very well for the past five years. How is your life going," Timber responded.~~ ["Very well for the past five years. How is your life going?" Timber responded.]

~~"Good for now because I am on vacation. In general, I have an issue in work because people make fun of me for not doing enough work in my team."~~ ["Good for now because I'm on vacation. In general, I have an issue at work because people make fun of me for not doing enough work in my team."]

~~"How did it happen in the first place," Timber asked.~~ ["How did it happen in the first place?" Timber asked.]

~~"Because I got promoted and now, I must lead a team of fifty people, which is a lot, and then I struggled with it. In the worst case I may be expelled from the company and must find another job."~~ ["Because I got promoted, and now I must lead a team of fifty people, which is a lot, and then I struggled with it. In the worst case, I may be expelled from the company and must find another job."]

~~"How may that feel?" Timber replied.~~ ["How does that feel?" Timber replied.]

I cried, "It will just build up on the stress."

Part 2 ~~"How did you actually know this?" Timber responded curiously.~~ ["How did you know this?" Timber responded curiously.]

~~"Our relationship has broken down and the conversation is getting too personal,," I pointed out.~~ ["Our relationship has broken down, and the conversation is getting too personal," I pointed out.] "Do you mind if we talk about something different?"

#3 ~~"What is that in your car," Timber asked me.~~ ["What is that in your car?" Timber asked me.]

"It is an emoji pillow from my childhood. It is a memory from when I learnt to sew. Have you ever learnt to sew?"

"No, I have not learnt to sew. I found it tough."

~~"It was compulsory in our later childhood days in my area. Even though I found it tough, after a few lessons I got the hang of it,," I replied.~~ ["It was compulsory in our later childhood days in my area. Even though I found it tough, after a few lessons I got the hang of it," I replied.]

~~"Everyone knows that life is very tricky with twists and turns and difficulties,," Timber explained.~~ ["Everyone knows that life is very tricky with twists and turns and difficulties," Timber explained.]

"I must stop somewhere on the highway soon. Bye for now," I finalised.