

Section 1:

#1: "The rusty violin stood immobile and fragmented."

Strengths:

- You've created a strong opening image that immediately shows the violin is broken and abandoned
- Your word choice of "rusty" helps readers picture the violin's condition after years of neglect

Lack of sensory detail → Your opening sentence tells us about the violin, but it doesn't help us experience the scene. What does the attic look like? What does it smell like? Is there dust floating in the air? Adding details about the setting would make your reader feel like they're standing there with you. The phrase "stood immobile" is also a bit confusing because violins don't usually stand—they lie down or hang on walls.

Exemplar: *The forgotten violin lay in pieces amongst dusty boxes, its wood dull with rust-coloured stains spreading across the strings.*

#2: "Regret was all around my body as I realised the hard work luthiers had put in to make such specific details on just a small instrument that lay broken in the attic."

Strengths:

- You've included the word "luthiers" which shows you know the proper term for violin makers
- You're connecting your emotions to the craftspeople who created the instrument

Unclear emotional connection → The sentence doesn't explain why you feel regret. Did you break the violin? Did you neglect it? Readers need to understand what happened to connect with your feelings. Also, saying regret was "all around my body" sounds awkward—emotions happen inside us, not around us. The phrase "such specific details on just a small instrument" is quite vague and doesn't show us what makes this violin special.

Exemplar: *Guilt settled heavily in my chest as I thought about the luthier's careful hands, shaping each curve and choosing each piece of wood, only for their creation to end up abandoned and broken.*

#3: "Suddenly I noticed that it was just me with transcendent skills not exceptionally good ones."

Strengths:

- You've created a moment of self-realisation that changes how the narrator sees themselves

Confusing conclusion → This ending doesn't match the rest of your story. Throughout the piece, you're talking about fixing a broken violin, but suddenly you're discussing your skills without explaining what you mean. What skills are you referring to—playing the violin or fixing it? The phrase "transcendent skills not exceptionally good ones" is also contradictory because "transcendent" means extraordinarily good, so this sentence says you have amazing skills that aren't amazing. Readers are left wondering what actually happened and what you learned.

Exemplar: *As the screeching notes faded, I understood the truth: the violin's beautiful music had never been about the instrument alone—it had always been the skilled musician who brought it to life.*

■ Your piece shows you can create interesting images and you're trying to tell a meaningful story about discovery and realisation. However, the content needs more clarity and connection between ideas. Right now, your writing jumps from the broken violin to regret to fixing it to playing it to a confusing ending, and readers might struggle to follow your journey. Additionally, you need to develop the middle section more—you mention putting the pieces together and trying the violin, but these important moments happen too quickly in just two short sentences. To improve the substance of your writing, slow down during key moments and show us what's happening step by step. For example, when you're fixing the violin, describe how the pieces fit together, what challenges you face, and how you feel as each piece clicks into place. Also, think carefully about what message you want readers to take away. Is this a story about appreciating craftsmanship? About learning your own abilities? About the importance of practice? Once you know your main idea, make sure every sentence connects to it. Finally, consider adding more specific details about the violin itself—what makes it precious? Does it have carvings, a special colour, or a history with your family? These concrete details will help readers care about the instrument as much as you do.

Overall Score: 38/50

Section 2:

#1 The rusty violin ~~stood~~ [lay] immobile and fragmented [in the shadowy corner of the attic.] Regret ~~was all around my body~~ [settled deep within me] as I ~~realised~~ [contemplated] the hard work luthiers had ~~put in to make~~ [invested in crafting] such ~~specific~~ [intricate] details on ~~just a small~~ [this delicate] instrument that lay broken ~~in the attic~~. Years ago [,] ~~The~~ [the] precious instrument sang its harmonious song ~~and~~ [, and] everyone who heard it would stop in awe and admire it. I gently started to put together the broken pieces ~~with~~ [, and] relief ~~washing~~ [washed] over me [as each fragment found its place.] ~~Abruptly when~~ [#3 However, when] I tried it, it ~~had~~ [] sounded horrible! Agitation shot through me. ~~Suddenly~~ [Then] I noticed that it was ~~just me with transcendent skills not exceptionally good ones~~. [my own limitations as a musician, not the violin's brokenness, that had created the discordant sounds.]