

Section 1

#1: Opening paragraph – "One day, I was walking down my street...the object was there."

Strengths:

- Your opening creates mystery effectively by using the guitar-shaped shadow, which draws readers in and makes them curious about what will happen next.
- You include sensory details like "dust scattered everywhere" that help readers picture the scene.

Pacing and Clarity → Your opening moves very quickly through several actions without giving readers time to understand what's happening. You jump from seeing a shadow, to remembering your teacher, to entering an empty house, all within a few sentences. Phrases like "I thought moved all of her stuff" show rushed writing, and the connection between the shadow and going inside isn't clear. Why would seeing a shadow make you enter someone else's house? Slowing down to explain your character's thoughts and motivations would help readers follow along more easily.

Exemplar: *As I walked down my street, a guitar-shaped shadow stretched across the footpath in front of me. I looked up and realised it was coming from Mrs. Henderson's window – my old music teacher who had moved away last month. I was sure she'd taken everything with her. Curious, I decided to investigate.*

#2: Discovery and dialogue – "As I turned to leave...I figured it out."

Strengths:

- Your dialogue feels natural and conversational, especially when the guitar says "Don't be sad, come and play my strings," which creates a magical, storybook feeling.
- You build suspense well by having the character try to remember where they'd heard the voice before.

Character Development → Your main character accepts extremely unusual events (like a talking guitar) without showing realistic emotions or reactions. When you discover the guitar is actually Callum, you simply say "I couldn't believe it" but then immediately move on to asking questions calmly. Most people would be shocked, scared, or need time to process such an impossible situation.

Adding more emotional responses and internal thoughts would make your character feel more real and relatable to readers.

Exemplar: *My heart pounded as I stared at the guitar. A talking guitar? Was I going mad? I stumbled backwards, my hands shaking. But that voice – I knew that voice from somewhere. It was warm and familiar, like a song from my childhood.*

#3: Competition sequence – "Finally, it was time for the competition...as the kid who beat Michael Jackson."

Strengths:

- You show the partnership between the narrator and Callum developing through practice, which demonstrates how they became a strong team.
- The excitement of the competition comes through clearly, especially when you describe people "jumped out of their seats screaming for us like madmans."

Conclusion Development → Your ending rushes through the most important part of the story – the actual performance and winning – in just a few sentences. You tell us "we were a magical duo" and "we won" but don't show us what made the performance special or how winning felt. The final line about "the kid who beat Michael Jackson" also confuses the story's message because earlier you said Michael Jackson was hosting and judging, not competing. Taking more time to describe the performance, the moment of winning, and what this achievement meant to your character would create a more satisfying ending.

Exemplar: *As my fingers moved across the strings, Callum and I played as one. The notes of 'Beat It' rang out perfectly, filling the auditorium. I could see Michael Jackson in the front row, nodding along with a smile. When we finished, the room exploded with applause. Tears filled my eyes as I realised that Callum and I had created something truly special together.*

■ Your piece tells an imaginative story with creative magical elements that make it fun to read. The idea of a famous musician becoming part of a guitar is original and interesting. However, your writing would benefit from slowing down and adding more detail to help readers fully experience each moment. Right now, major events happen too quickly – you enter the house, meet a talking guitar,

learn its identity, practise for weeks, and win a competition all in a short space. Consider expanding key scenes, especially emotional moments and the competition itself.

Additionally, your characters need more depth. Show us what your narrator is thinking and feeling throughout these unusual events. When something magical happens, how does it affect them? What do they see, hear, and feel in important moments? For example, instead of just saying "I was so worried," describe how that worry felt – perhaps your hands were sweaty, or your stomach felt tight.

Your dialogue works well, but the story structure needs attention. Some plot points don't connect logically, such as why you entered someone else's empty house, or how Michael Jackson could both host a competition and be described as someone you "beat." Think through your story's logic carefully. Also, consider what message or feeling you want readers to have at the end. Right now, the conclusion feels rushed and unclear about what the experience meant to your character. Taking time to develop a meaningful ending would strengthen your entire story significantly.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2

The Guitar That Changed My Life

One day, I was walking down my street when I saw a shadow of a guitar in front of me. It looked like it came from my old music teacher's house. I thought, 'Why is her guitar still there? I ~~thought moved~~ [thought she had moved] all of her stuff to her new house ~~before~~ [already].' Oh well, I guess I'll have a look inside. As I walked up the front steps, there was dust scattered everywhere. I opened the door, and to my surprise, the house was completely empty. I rushed in to check the upstairs because that's where the guitar-shaped shadow was coming from. I went to all the rooms, and the last one left was my teacher's bedroom. I opened the door with suspense, hoping the object was there. I looked in, but to my dismay, there was no object.

As I turned to leave the room to exit the house, I heard a voice. "~~Don't be sad, come and play my strings,~~" ["Don't be sad, come and play my strings,"] said the mysterious voice. I turned around to look at what was making that wonderful but mysterious sound. I thought I was dreaming, but in reality,

there was actually a guitar talking to me! It had scratches and dust all over it. I ~~recognised~~ [recognised] it as the object that was making the shadow from out of the window, but also as the guitar that was hanging in a glass box in my teacher's living room. Even though I ~~recognised~~ [recognised] it, I couldn't remember where I had heard the guitar's voice ~~it~~ ~~me~~ [with me] before. I kept on thinking till my brain hurt, and then, finally, I figured it out. It was the voice of Callum, my ~~favourite~~ [favourite] musician, from when I was a child. I couldn't believe ~~it~~ ~~this~~ [it – this] guitar was the reason I started playing the guitar ~~but~~ [, but] I ~~am~~ [was] still wondering how Callum got mixed with a guitar.

"I know this is odd but can I ask you a question," [?] I asked.

"Sure! ; [] what is it?" Callum replied.

~~"Um..., how did you become a guitar," I asked.~~ ["Um... how did you become a guitar?" I asked.]

~~"I fell into a pot while visiting a witch to get a potion and I had my guitar with me and my guitar and I fell into a potion and just got combined," he said in an embarrassed tone.~~ ["I fell into a pot while visiting a witch to get a potion. I had my guitar with me, and we both fell into the potion and just got combined," he said in an embarrassed tone.]

"~~Oh~~ [, is] it hard living in a guitar?" I asked.

~~"At first but I got used to it," Callum answered.~~ ["At first, but I got used to it," Callum answered.]

"~~Ok~~ [, okay]," I said.

Like he said, I started playing his strings and he played as ~~good~~ [well] as Messi in a football match. Even though his strings were worn out and about to rip ~~he~~ [, he] played so ~~good~~ [well], it sounded ~~harmonical~~ [harmonious] and not like a cacophony of cars in a traffic jam.

~~"It's like im not even touching the strings and it's playing co well!" I exclaimed.~~ ["It's like I'm not even touching the strings and it's playing so well!" I exclaimed.]

"I don't know ~~I~~ [, I] just play the note that ~~hand~~ [your hand] was going to play next by looking at your hand," Callum replied.

"You should keep on doing that ~~we~~ [, We] could become the best duo in the world!" I said.

~~"Okay," he answered.~~ ["Okay," he answered.]

Just like that ~~Callum~~ [, Callum] and I started ~~practicing~~ [practising] for the annual Michael Jackson ~~award~~ [Award] competition. Since the competition has Michael Jackson hosting it ~~we~~ [, we] decided to play 'Beat It' ~~my favourite~~ [, my favourite] song of Michael Jackson's playlist. After two weeks ~~we~~ [, we] were already so in sync with each other that I didn't even have to look at the string I was going to play next and he would have already done it. We were an amazing combo[.] ~~imagine~~ [Imagine] Messi and Ronaldo in one team playing together[–] that's how good we were. We had one more week until the competition and we ~~getting~~ [were getting] so close to perfecting the song.

~~1 week later....~~ [One week later...]

Finally, it was time for the competition to begin and there were a lot of people watching the performances and performing. I was so worried that we weren't going to win.

"Do you think we can pull this off?" I asked Callum.

~~"Yeah probably the amount we practiced it would be surprising if we don't," he replied.~~ ["Yeah, probably. The amount we practised, it would be surprising if we don't," he replied.]

~~"Ok I trust you," I said hoping that he was correct.~~ ["Okay, I trust you," I said, hoping that he was correct.]

Just as we finished our conversation ~~it~~ [, it] was time for us to perform our song. We ~~hopper~~ [hopped] onto the stage ~~fingers~~ [, fingers] crossed ~~while~~ [, as] we started to play 'Beat It'. We were a magical duo ~~but~~ [, but] then again ~~nobody~~ [, nobody] knew the legend Callum got mixed with his guitar. Midway through the song ~~people~~ [, people] started cheering and clapping. By the time we finished ~~we~~ [, we] already knew ~~it~~ [it –] we won! People jumped out of their seats screaming for us like ~~madmans~~ [madmen].

Callum and I got to meet Michael Jackson in his studio and perform with him. It was amazing and I was known for my entire life as the kid who beat Michael Jackson.