

## Section 1

**#1: "Maya, always rushing, even her coffee was like a countdown timer after hours of working in the city."**

### Strengths:

- Your comparison of Maya's coffee to a countdown timer cleverly shows how rushed and busy she feels.
- You've quickly introduced Maya's character in just one sentence, helping readers understand her personality straight away.

**Weakness: Unclear sentence structure** → The opening phrase "Maya, always rushing" doesn't connect smoothly to the rest of the sentence. When you write "even her coffee was like a countdown timer," it's confusing because coffee can't actually rush—Maya is the one rushing. The phrase "after hours of working in the city" feels tacked on at the end and doesn't clearly explain whether Maya has been working for hours or if she's at the café after work hours. This makes readers pause and reread to understand what you mean.

**Exemplar:** *Maya was always rushing. After hours of working in the city, even her coffee felt like a countdown timer.*

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**#2: "In the corner of the room, Leo, his best friend since childhood with a sketchbook, watched the whorls of his hot chocolate silently."**

### Strengths:

- Your word choice "whorls" is sophisticated and creates a lovely visual image of the swirling patterns in Leo's drink.
- You've shown Leo's artistic nature through his actions rather than just telling us he's artistic.

**Weakness: Confusing word order** → The phrase "his best friend since childhood with a sketchbook" is wedged awkwardly between Leo's name and what he's doing. This makes it unclear who "his" refers to—is Leo Maya's best friend, or does Leo have a best friend with him? The sketchbook

seems randomly inserted into the middle of describing their friendship. The sentence tries to pack in too much information (Leo's location, his relationship to Maya, his possession of a sketchbook, and his action) all at once, making it difficult to follow.

**Exemplar:** *In the corner of the room, Leo—Maya's best friend since childhood—held his sketchbook and silently watched the whorls of his hot chocolate.*

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### #3: "The bakery oven filled with dough."

#### Strengths:

- You're trying to add sensory details about the café environment.
- The sentence is short and simple, which provides a break from longer sentences.

**Weakness: Incomplete thought** → This sentence feels like it's missing something important. Ovens aren't just "filled with dough"—they bake bread, they produce heat, they create smells. Your sentence stops before telling us what's actually happening with the oven. Is bread baking inside? Is it warming the café? The sentence also appears suddenly in the middle of describing the café's atmosphere without connecting to the sentences before or after it, making it feel out of place.

**Exemplar:** *Bread baked slowly in the bakery oven, filling the air with warmth.*

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■ Your piece creates a cosy café scene with three different characters, which is a lovely foundation for a story. You've done well showing how each person experiences the storm differently—Maya is annoyed, Leo is fascinated, and Agnes is calm. However, your writing needs clearer sentence structures throughout. Many of your sentences try to squeeze too much information into one place, making them confusing to read. For example, in your first paragraph, you introduce Maya, Leo, and Agnes in ways that make readers work too hard to understand who they are and what they're doing. Additionally, your second paragraph could be strengthened by improving how you describe the café's atmosphere—right now, some details (like the oven sentence) feel disconnected from the rest. Your third paragraph works better because the action is clearer, but you could still improve how you describe each character's reaction to make their personalities shine through more strongly. Try breaking long, complicated sentences into two shorter ones, and make sure each sentence has one clear idea. Also, check that descriptive details connect logically to what comes before and after them, creating a smooth flow throughout your story.

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Overall Score: 39/50

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## Section 2

~~Maya, always rushing, even her coffee was like a countdown timer after hours of working in the city.~~  
[#1 Maya was always rushing. After hours of working in the city, even her coffee felt like a countdown timer.] ~~In the corner of the room, Leo, his best friend since childhood with a sketchbook, watched the whorls of his hot chocolate silently.~~ [#2 In the corner of the room, Leo—her best friend since childhood—held his sketchbook and silently watched the whorls of his hot chocolate.] Near the window, Agnes, her fingers smooth from all the years of gardening, held her warm tea, remembering many peaceful rainfalls.

Outside, the storm raged against the ~~cafe~~ [café] window, tinting all grey and indistinct. Within, warm air and the smell of sugary pastries and freshly ground coffee filled the air. ~~The bakery oven filled with dough.~~ [#3 Bread baked slowly in the bakery oven, filling the air with warmth.] Cups collided gently, a ~~cozy~~ [a cosy] world ~~shaking~~ [standing firm] against the inclement weather. Maya ~~seethed~~ [stared intently] at her laptop, ~~Considering~~ [thinking], Just this email, and then I can leave. Leo's gaze tracked the indistinct outlines on the glass, ~~Could~~ [Could] I draw that misty street? Agnes simply smiled, a tiny satisfaction unfolding within her.

Suddenly the whole room was filled with a blinding flash of light, followed by the most intense rumble that shook the windows. Maya winced, spilling a tiny drop of coffee ~~over~~ [onto the table]. Wonderful, she grumbled, annoyed. Leo gasped in wonder, his eyes wide with ~~marvel~~ [delight], rapidly doodling a rough zigzag in his book. ~~What a wonderful~~ [*What wonderful*] light! Agnes only ~~smothered~~ [wore] a very small, amused smile, drinking ~~tea~~ [her tea] slowly, peacefully. It was just a storm, but they all felt it in their own unique way.