

### Section 1:

#1 "My tummy was all fluttery as I waited by the school gates this morning, the morning air still retaining a nippy bite. Then I saw him—Leo, clinging to his bright yellow backpack. He looked so small, almost dwarfed in his huge jacket."

#### Strengths:

- Your sensory details are excellent—"fluttery," "nippy bite," and "bright yellow" help readers experience the moment
- The visual image of Leo being dwarfed in his jacket creates a touching picture

**Repetitive Word Choice** → You've used the word "morning" twice in quick succession, which makes the sentence feel a bit clunky. Additionally, saying "the morning air still retaining" sounds quite formal and awkward for a diary entry. Your natural voice gets lost in overly complicated phrasing here.

**Exemplar:** *My tummy was all fluttery as I waited by the school gates, the crisp air still carrying a nippy bite from the night before.*

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#2 "The street, which in most places is just a pathway, looked like a swirling river of cars. We waited there, the rumble of motors like distant thunder, until the crossing guard signalled for us to proceed."

#### Strengths:

- Your two similes here are sophisticated and vivid—"swirling river of cars" and "rumble of motors like distant thunder" create powerful imagery
- You've shown good variety in your sentence structure

**Confusing Phrase** → The phrase "which in most places is just a pathway" doesn't make sense in this context. Streets aren't pathways in most places—they're streets everywhere. This comparison confuses readers because it's unclear what you're trying to express. Perhaps you meant the street felt bigger or more dangerous than usual, but the current wording doesn't communicate that effectively.

**Exemplar:** *The street, which usually seemed so ordinary, now looked like a swirling river of cars.*

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#3 "On the sidewalk, Leo's shoulders slumped, and he even blushed with a shy smile. 'Thanks, Felix,' he grumbled before hurrying off to his class."

**Strengths:**

- You've captured a sweet moment showing Leo's relief and gratitude
- The dialogue adds personality to the scene

**Contradictory Description** → The word "grumbled" means to complain or speak in an annoyed, unhappy way. This doesn't match with Leo blushing and smiling shyly whilst thanking you. These descriptions work against each other—if Leo is genuinely grateful and shy, he wouldn't be grumbling. You need a dialogue tag that matches the positive, grateful mood you've established.

**Exemplar:** *"Thanks, Felix," he mumbled softly before hurrying off to his class.*

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■ Your piece demonstrates sophisticated vocabulary and strong descriptive writing skills. The sensory details throughout—fluttery tummy, nippy air, warm fingers, rumbling motors—bring the experience to life beautifully. Your two similes are particularly effective and show creative thinking. The structure follows the micromoments well, taking us before, during, and after the crossing experience.

However, there are a few areas where your word choices work against your meaning. The phrase about streets being pathways needs clarification, and "grumbled" contradicts the grateful mood you've created. Also, watch out for small typos like "signalledSd"—careful proofreading would catch these. Your sentence "It felt like forever, but only a minute, before we stepped out into the safety of the other side" is a bit awkward. Consider revising it to flow more naturally, perhaps: "It felt like forever, though it was only a minute, before we stepped onto the safety of the other side."

Additionally, your piece could benefit from expanding the "after" micromoment. You've got a lovely reflection at the end about feeling like a superhero and learning that small actions matter, but the actual after-crossing moment feels rushed. What else happened after Leo left? How did you feel walking back? What did you think about for the rest of the day? Expanding this section would give your three micromoments more equal weight. Your reflective ending is thoughtful and mature, showing real personal growth. The metaphor of feeling like a "little superhero" connects nicely to your overall message about the power of helping others. Try to maintain consistency in your tone—some

phrases like "retaining a nippy bite" feel quite formal, whilst others like "tummy was all fluttery" feel natural and age-appropriate for a diary entry.

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**Score: 40/50**

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## **Section 2:**

Dear Diary,

Today was a landmark day! I was a 'crossing buddy' to a younger student named Leo for Walk [/Roll] week. **#1** My tummy was all fluttery as I waited by the school gates this morning, the morning air still ~~retaining~~ [carrying] a nippy bite. Then I saw him—Leo, clinging to his bright yellow backpack. He looked so small, almost dwarfed in his huge jacket.

**#2** When it was time to walk across the street, I grasped Leo's hand, his fingers surprisingly warm against mine. The street, ~~which in most places is just a pathway,~~ [which usually seemed so ordinary,] looked like a swirling river of cars. We waited there, the rumble of motors like distant thunder, until the crossing guard ~~signalled~~ ~~us~~ [signalled] for us to proceed. "Just keep close to me, Leo," I said, louder than I had intended. We moved quickly along, his little legs keeping up with mine. It felt like forever[—]~~but~~ [though it was] only a minute [—]before we stepped ~~out into~~ [onto] the safety of the other side.

**#3** On the ~~sidewalk~~ [footpath], Leo's shoulders slumped, and he ~~even~~ blushed with a shy smile. "Thanks, Felix," he ~~grumbled~~ [mumbled softly] before hurrying off to his class. I watched him fade down the hall[and] ~~concluding~~ [concluded] that being in ~~command~~ [charge] was not so terrible. It was not scary at all, and keeping someone safe made me ~~kind of~~ [feel] proud, like a little superhero. I ~~found~~ [learnt] that even our small actions can create a gigantic impact.