

Section 1

#1 "I strolled into the playground, the metal glinting from the swings. The canvas of the sky was full of splotches of pink and scarlet, with the yellow orb falling below the horizon."

Strengths: Your piece uses vivid sensory imagery that brings the playground scene to life—words like "glinting" and "splotches" create a clear visual picture. The opening establishes atmosphere effectively, making readers feel present in the moment.

→ **Weak clarity in phrasing** Your writing contains phrases like "the canvas of the sky was full of splotches" that, whilst poetic, create some confusion about what's happening. When you say "the yellow orb falling below the horizon," it's clear you mean the sun, but using indirect descriptions makes the sentence harder to follow. Readers might pause to work out what you're describing.

Exemplar: *The sky blazed with streaks of pink and scarlet as the sun dipped below the horizon.*

#2 "The principal looked at me sternly. 'I...' 'I was playing in school...' Before I could finish, he shrieked 'Yellow Card'"

Strengths: Your piece captures tension effectively through dialogue and short, punchy sentences. The interruption by the principal creates real drama and makes readers curious about what happens next.

→ **Dialogue formatting and flow** Your dialogue lacks proper punctuation and structure, which affects readability. When the principal "shrieked," that action should be formatted differently from the dialogue itself. Additionally, the jump from the principal looking stern to him shrieking feels abrupt—there's not enough shown about what triggers his outburst.

Exemplar: *Before I could finish, the principal shrieked: "Yellow Card!" His face had turned crimson with anger.*

#3 "My friends were wicked, I finally decided at last, as the last rays of sunshine streaked through the window, staining it orange. They weren't real friends, only parasites to extract every useful trait and thing in me, then leave me to die."

Strengths: Your piece conveys strong emotion and uses bold comparisons—calling friends "parasites" is a powerful way to show how hurt and betrayed your character feels. The conclusion ties back to the earlier events effectively.

→ **Repetition and word choice** You use "last" twice in quick succession ("finally decided at last"), which weakens the impact. Also, phrases like "extract every useful trait and thing in me" are wordy and could be

tightened. The phrase "leave me to die" is quite extreme and might not match the situation of receiving a Yellow Card.

Exemplar: *My friends were parasites, extracting everything worthwhile from me before abandoning me completely.*

■ Your piece tells an interesting story about consequence and friendship, moving backwards and forwards through time to show what led to your character's downfall. The plot is engaging, and you've clearly thought about structure. However, your narrative jumps around quite a bit, and sometimes it's hard to follow exactly when things are happening or why your character makes certain choices. Additionally, some of your descriptions are so fancy that they actually make the story harder to understand rather than easier. To improve your piece, focus on making the sequence of events clearer—perhaps reorganise so readers follow the story in a straighter line before you play with time jumps. Also, add more explanation about your character's feelings and motivations so we understand *why* they accepted Tim's dare or why they ran from the principal. Finally, check that your descriptions help tell the story rather than slow it down.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2

Present

I strolled into the playground, the metal glinting from the swings. ~~The canvas of the sky was full of splotches of pink and scarlet, with the yellow orb falling below the horizon.~~ [The sky blazed with pink and scarlet as the sun sank below the horizon.] ~~Beads of sweat cascaded down my cheeks; the day had been harsh~~ [Sweat trickled down my cheeks; the day had been gruelling.]

Half an hour before

I was in trouble. The principal was looming over me, brows creased. "Why?" Silence. No reply. I whimpered, but no explanation was offered. The principal looked at me sternly. "I..." "I was playing in school..." ~~Before I could finish, he shrieked "Yellow Card"~~ [Before I could finish, he shrieked, "Yellow Card!"]

Present

I regretted coming. Why had I thought of this? Why had I done something so dumb? Now my parents would kill me. I sighed. What great luck. It had to happen that the principal came.

Half an hour before

~~His stare a continued for eternity.~~ [His stare continued for an eternity.] Never ending. Motionless. I wanted to run away, but my legs stopped functioning, no blood in it. ~~Suddenly, life seemed to unfreeze.~~ [Suddenly, life seemed to return.] My legs snapped into function, and I bolted away. Left. Right. Around that. Fake a turn. He's catching up. Footsteps coming. Out the gate. Close it. Out. It won't work, though, I thought as I caught my breath and my thoughts reformed themselves from liquid.

Present

Now I was deprived of privileges. And expelled. First student in decades! A cyclone of disgust and hate caught fire, and it turned into a fire storm. Why had I accepted ~~Tim's~~ [Tim's] dare? I hated being teased, but was proving myself worth detention? Surely I would just get teased again.

Forty minutes before.

I crept into the playground, the Autumn leaves snapping under my footsteps. Nobody was here anyways. I ~~had a go on the swings, took a few pictures and skateboarded on the ramp. now they could know.~~ [I had a go on the swings, took a few pictures and skateboarded on the ramp. Now they could know.] ~~Then,~~ footsteps rustled in the leaves, and I sprinted towards the trees. ~~Then, ebon enveloped me.~~ [Then, footsteps rustled through the leaves as I sprinted towards the trees. Darkness enveloped me.]

Present

My friends were wicked, I finally decided at last, as the last rays of sunshine streaked through the window, staining it orange. ~~They weren't real friends, only parasites to extract every useful trait and thing in me, then leave me to die.~~ [They weren't real friends, merely parasites extracting everything worthwhile from me before abandoning me.] I would never listen to them; I would only fail more. ~~[I would never listen to them again; I would only fail further.]~~