## **Section 1**

#1: "Black. Where am I? Stop thinking. Keep on running. Are they on my trail? Stop thinking. Keep on running. Focus. Don't lose grip."

Strengths: Your piece uses short, punchy sentences that create a real sense of urgency and panic. The repeated phrases "Stop thinking" and "Keep on running" build rhythm and show the character's frantic mental state effectively.

→ Fragmented focus and unclear context Your opening creates tension, but we don't know who's chasing you or why they're dangerous. The reader needs a clearer anchor to understand the stakes before diving into this panic. Without knowing what's happening, the urgency feels disconnected from the story.

Exemplar: "Black. Where am I? Footsteps echo behind me. Stop thinking. Keep on running." This version gives us a concrete reason for the panic.

#2: "If you even had the weakest sense of smell this park would be engraved in your nostrils forever. Though during dusk when I visited it was a totally different story."

*Strengths:* Your piece uses vivid sensory language that helps readers picture the park. The phrase "engraved in your nostrils forever" is creative and shows the park's unpleasant conditions clearly.

→ *Inconsistent point of view* Your piece switches between addressing the reader ("If you even had...") and describing your own experience ("when I visited"). This makes it confusing whose story we're following. You need to pick one perspective and stick with it.

Exemplar: "If I had even the weakest sense of smell, this park would be engraved in my nostrils forever. During dusk, it was a totally different story from the sublime neighbourhood I usually knew." This keeps the point of view consistent.

#3: "I opened it, it read: Dearest maya, if you ever find this know that I am waiting, your favourite sweet brownies ready for your beautiful greedy mouth to devour... It cut off there."

Strengths: Your piece creates intrigue through the mysterious letter. The personal tone of the message makes readers wonder who wrote it and what it means to the character.

→ Unclear consequences and rushed resolution The letter is interesting, but we don't learn what it means or how it connects to the dangerous people. You find this mysterious envelope, read a strange message,

and then immediately run away. The discovery doesn't feel important enough to your story—it happens and then vanishes.

Exemplar: "I opened it with trembling hands. The letter read: 'Dearest Maya, if you ever find this know that I am waiting, your favourite sweet brownies ready for your beautiful greedy mouth to devour...' The handwriting was familiar, but before I could remember whose, one of the dangerous people spotted me." This version builds tension between the discovery and the danger.

■ Your piece has an engaging premise—finding a mysterious letter in a dangerous place—but it rushes through the most interesting parts. The story jumps between the chase scene, the park description, and the letter without letting each moment breathe or connect. Additionally, your descriptions of the park are strong, but they don't feel connected to why you're really there or what the envelope means. Also, the opening and closing chase scenes feel separate from the middle section about the park and letter. To improve your writing, try slowing down when something important happens. When you find the letter, tell us more about what's in it and why it matters. Furthermore, you could add details that connect the mysterious letter to the dangerous people—are they looking for the letter too? Finally, make sure your whole story feels like one journey, not three different stories stuck together.

Overall Score: 39/50

## **Section 2**

The Playground At Dusk

Present

Black.

Where am I?

Stop thinking.

Keep on running.

Are they on my trail?

Stop thinking.

Keep on running.

Focus.
Don't lose grip.
41 mins ago
Contrasting to the usually sublime neighbourhood park, [—] only sublime while the rays of the sun is [the sun's rays are] still at full activation. Though during dusk when I visited it was a totally different story. If you even had the weakest sense of smell this park would be engraved in your nostrils forever. Rubbish was floating. There was a group of people— scary people— dangerous people. The grass was not green like usual, [;] it was a disgusting mouldy colour of [shade of] yellow— you could on some bright beautiful days roll on the grass as if it was pure white snow— but not on this dark and gloomy day— or should I say dawn [or perhaps dusk]. I spotted I [a] yellow envelope camouflaged in the mouldy grass.
I opened it, it read [and it read]:
Dearest maya [Maya], if you ever find this know that I am waiting, your favourite sweet brownies ready for your beautiful greedy mouth to devour
It cut off there. I looked at the contents of the envelope, there was multiple paper slips like this. As I was about to pick up another one to read, [—] at that moment. One of the dangerous people spotted me and said" ["] whatcha doin here" ["]. I put the paper back in the envelope; [.] He also said "this is our base" ["."] I sealed the envelope, [—] all the other dangerous people got up too. I did the reasonable thing: I ran.
Present
Black.
Where am I?
Stop thinking.
Keep on running.
Are they on my trail?
Stop thinking.
Keep on running.
Focus.
Don't lose grip.
Don't lose grip.
I stopped running.

Slightly	turned	my	head.

No one.

What a soothing sight.

In case they were still on my trail, I ducked.

I ducked into an alleyway that leads me right to the front door of my house.