

Section 1

#1: "Jose paced the ancient playground watching the wind push the cracked swing. He held a picture of him and his old best friend Tom hopefully, yet the wind turned cold and hard as if there was no hope."

Strengths: Your piece effectively establishes a melancholic atmosphere through the juxtaposition of the "ancient playground" and the symbolic wind. The contrast between Jose holding the photo "hopefully" and the wind turning "cold and hard" creates emotional tension that draws the reader in immediately.

→ **Unclear pronoun reference** Your writing contains a grammatical awkwardness with "He held a picture of him and his old best friend Tom hopefully." The phrase creates confusion about who "him" refers to—Jose or Tom. Additionally, the placement of "hopefully" as an adverb modifying the action feels uncertain; it's unclear whether Jose is feeling hopeful or merely holding the photo in a hopeful manner.

Exemplar: *"He held a picture of himself and his old best friend Tom, clinging to it hopefully, yet the wind turned cold and hard as if there was no hope."*

#2: "The patches of the orange and pink sky were darkened like a memory slowly fading into nothing. The wind blew around memories like the laughter that Jose had once shared with Tom on the now squeaky and blackened roundabout."

Strengths: Your piece uses vivid colour imagery with "orange and pink sky" to reinforce the nostalgic mood. The extended metaphor of the darkening sky paralleling fading memories is sophisticated and strengthens the emotional resonance of the passage.

→ **Repetition of central concept** Your writing repeats the idea of "memories" across consecutive sentences without developing it further. The phrase "memories like the laughter" and the earlier "like a memory slowly fading" both reference memory, but neither explores what these specific memories mean to Jose or why they matter beyond the general sense of loss.

Exemplar: *"The patches of orange and pink sky were darkening like a cherished moment slipping away. The wind seemed to carry the echoes of laughter Jose had once shared with Tom on the now squeaky and blackened roundabout."*

#3: "Soon the sky became dark but still there was not even the faintest hint that Tom was coming. Jose let out a sigh of bitterness and regret and dropped the photo. But something made him turn and look back. A lone streetlight shown with a glow dark at first but slowly getting brighter like a new beginning."

Strengths: Your piece creates a compelling turning point through the streetlight symbol, which shifts the narrative from despair to hope. The pacing of short sentences ("But something made him turn and look back") builds suspense effectively.

→ **Unclear causal connection** Your writing doesn't explain what "something" prompts Jose to turn back. This vagueness weakens the emotional impact of the turning point. The reader needs to understand what triggers this change in perspective—is it an external sound, a realisation, or an internal impulse? Without clarity, the moment feels unmotivated.

Exemplar: *"Jose let out a sigh of bitterness and regret and dropped the photo. As it fell, the streetlight flickered to life, casting a warm glow across the darkened playground, and Jose found himself turning around to face it—not looking back."*

■ Your piece shows strong atmospheric writing and meaningful symbolism, particularly with the playground as a setting for lost friendship and the streetlight representing hope. However, your writing would benefit from deeper exploration of Jose's emotional journey. Right now, the piece tells us *that* he is sad and *that* he finds hope, but it doesn't help us understand *why* this moment matters so much or *how* he changes his perspective. Additionally, you could strengthen your work by clarifying the specific details—what does the photo mean to him? Why did their friendship end? These details don't need to be answered directly, but hints would make your writing feel more grounded. Also, your transitions between scenes are sometimes abrupt; using linking words such as "meanwhile," "as," or "whilst" would help your ideas flow more smoothly from one moment to the next.

Overall Score: 39/50

Section 2

Jose paced the ancient playground watching the wind push the cracked swing. He held a picture of ~~him~~ [himself] and his old best friend Tom [...] ~~hopefully~~, [He gripped it desperately,] yet the wind turned cold and hard as if there was no hope. The patches of the orange and pink sky were darkened like a memory slowly fading into nothing. The wind blew around memories like the laughter that Jose had once shared with Tom on the now squeaky and blackened roundabout. He could almost hear Tom yelling "Push me harder" the day before their lives changed forever. The once bright colours of the climbing structure had been worn down and ~~blackened~~ [blackened] by the years of joy and happiness that it had ~~bought~~ [brought] until the incident and its ropes were worn and frayed like the old friends' relationship. Soon the sky became dark but still there was not even the faintest hint that Tom was coming. Jose let out a sigh of bitterness and regret and dropped the photo. But something made him turn and look back. A lone streetlight ~~shown~~ [shone] with a glow dark at first but slowly getting brighter like a new beginning. With a smile on his face, Jose turned around and walked home, not looking back.