

Section 1

#1 "In our complex life on Earth, we have discovered many things, including deep aqua oceans, mountainous climbs, and in the sandy section, you could say an abandoned playground at dusk."

Strengths: Your piece establishes an intriguing sense of scale by moving from global discoveries to the specific abandoned playground, which creates nice narrative contrast. The phrase "deep aqua oceans" shows colour awareness that builds atmosphere.

→ Unclear connection between ideas: The opening moves from broad discoveries (oceans, mountains) to a specific location (playground) in a way that feels disconnected. Readers aren't sure why these large-scale examples matter to the story about Mike and the playground. The phrase "in the sandy section, you could say" also sounds hesitant and weakens the statement.

"Amongst all of Earth's wonders, Mike discovered something that others had overlooked—an abandoned playground at dusk."

#2 "Mike was the kind of kid who everyone, bully or not, can't help but tease him. He didn't play sports much like the other boys everyone respected, but he wasn't the lazy gamers who people included. He was just a normal, bullied bookworm."

Strengths: Your piece attempts to build Mike's character through contrasts—showing what he wasn't helps define who he was. The label "bullied bookworm" is a compact way to capture his identity.

→ Repetitive character definition: Your piece repeats the idea that Mike is bullied or different across three consecutive sentences ("tease him," "wasn't the lazy gamers," "bullied bookworm"). This repetition tells us the same thing over and over rather than showing us fresh details about him. Additionally, the sentence structure is awkward in places—"can't help but tease him" is grammatically unclear, and "wasn't the lazy gamers who people included" is confusing.

"Mike wasn't the athletic type others admired, nor was he the gamer they embraced—he was simply a bookworm, and for that, he endured constant teasing."

#3 "Then suddenly, the pieces clicked. Thoughts flashed his mind like lightning bolts – The hat. Grandad's old one. 'We'll put it good use!' Mom said after the funeral. After my grandfather's last breath. The hat, rotting away in the prison of a basement for years on end."

Strengths: Your piece shifts into a vivid memory sequence that creates emotional stakes. The imagery of the hat ("rotting away," "bits bit off by rats") is concrete and unsettling, which makes the moment feel significant.

→ Unclear cause and effect in the narrative shift: Your piece doesn't explain why the playground suddenly triggers Mike's memory of his grandfather's hat. The connection between the abandoned, neglected playground and the neglected hat isn't shown—it just happens. This makes the turning point

feel abrupt rather than earned. Readers need to understand what Mike notices that links these two things together.

"As Mike touched the rusted swing, he understood—both the playground and his grandfather's hat shared the same fate: they were abandoned, forgotten, left to decay."

■ Your piece has an engaging foundation with Mike's loneliness and the mystery of the playground, but the connection between his discovery and the hat needs strengthening. Right now, the hat appears without clear reason, which confuses readers about what your story is really about. You could improve your writing by showing us *why* the playground reminds Mike of the hat—what specific detail triggers the memory? Also, you could give Mike a clearer goal earlier on. Does he want to fix the hat? Does he want to bring the playground back to life? Knowing what Mike wants to achieve will help your whole story feel more purposeful and connected. Additionally, some of your sentences are doing too much work at once—breaking them into shorter, clearer thoughts will help readers follow Mike's journey more easily.

Score: 39/50

Section 2

In our complex life on Earth, we have discovered many things, including deep aqua oceans, mountainous climbs, and in the sandy section, you could say an abandoned playground at dusk. Among humans, Mike particularly is the one who found it. ~~Or the only who noticed it.~~ [Or the only one who noticed it.] ~~In the time of dusk, where all was sandy and the night taunts who everywhere you go,~~ [As dusk fell across the sandy expanse and shadows crept everywhere,] he was going on one of his gloomy sunset walks, when no one was around to bully him. Mike was the kind of kid who everyone, bully or not, ~~can't help but tease him~~ [couldn't help but tease]. He didn't play sports much like the other boys everyone respected, but he wasn't the lazy gamers who people included. ~~He was just a normal, bullied bookworm.~~ [He was simply a bookworm, and for that, he was bullied.] Not that he could help it. It was just his hobby. So, he adopted the habit of going out on walks when the sun dimmed and everyone was inside having fun with friends. He was quiet and lonely, but he was pretty much used to this life now, no matter how painful it was. But at that moment, he noticed something others hadn't. An abandoned playground. It felt... off, as Mike tried to put it, but couldn't find anything to prove that thought. So, denying his gut feeling, he went over to the playground and started playing. Every swing on the swing and every drop on the slide felt wrong. Neglected. ~~Then suddenly, the pieces clicked.~~ [Then, without warning, understanding crystallised.] Thoughts flashed his mind like lightning bolts – The hat. Grandad's old one. 'We'll put it ~~good~~ [to good] use!' Mom said after the funeral. After my grandfather's last breath. ~~The hat, rotting away in the prison of a basement for years on end.~~ [The hat had rotted away in the basement's confines for years—bits gnawed off by rats, mouldy black spots spreading across its surface.] Bits bit off by rats, mouldy black spots here and there, and suddenly, reality returned. The dream passed off. There, at that moment, Mike realised why he felt so lonely. He just had to fix that hat.

