

SOPHOMORE SLUMP

Kim stood at the corner of the park near the bus stop waiting for Shalya. Her brown hair blew in the wind. It was cold for the last week of September, and she wished she had worn a coat instead of a hoodie. She also wished Shalya would hurry. They had been best friends since kindergarten, and now they were sophomores in high school. Shalya was often late and today was no exception.

It was Saturday and they had agreed to meet at 10 a.m. to go to the mall together and shop for boots, which they both needed. **Being a good time before winter weather set in, especially since Kim wore a small size that could be hard to find.** She hoped they'd find some great styles.

Kim looked forward to a nice long talk with Shalya. **Considering how busy they had both been since school started a few weeks ago.** Kim had a lot to tell her, and she wanted to know which activities Shalya planned to join, since they always tried to do the same ones. Kim thought about the different activities at school this year and which ones they'd both like. She wished she and Shalya had more classes together. Their schedules were different because Shalya was in Choir and Band, while Kim had English and Biology those periods. At least they had gym and lunch together.

Kim checked her phone and saw the time was 10:15. By now **her face was pink** from the cold wind. She started to send a text when she saw Shalya across the street. **Her gray eyes widened.** Shalya wasn't alone. She was with some older guy who went to their school. Kim had seen Shalya talking to him last week outside the cafeteria. She wondered why he was here with Shalya today.

"Hey, Kim!" Shalya called out, smiling. "Sorry I'm late. Do you know Jay Bardali? We were talking about hanging out together today, so I thought it would be fun if he came to the mall, too. And he can drive us, so we don't have to take the bus."

Kim was confused and upset by this change in plans. Shalya sounded as if it was just fine that she invited some guy to join them without asking Kim first.

The opening scene orients readers to the setting and situation

Internal dialogue can intensify Kim's POV See letter.

See letter for ways to add "show; don't tell" to the scene.

Victoria Sherrow

This is a sentence fragment- see letter
September 23, 2022 4:35pm

Victoria Sherrow

Fragment
September 23, 2022 4:40pm

Victoria Sherrow

Watch the point of view (POV) here. see letter.
September 23, 2022 4:37pm

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POV issue again here.
September 23, 2022 4:38pm

Victoria Sherrow

I see opportunities in this paragraph for "showing" no "telling" and maybe internal dialogue. see letter
September 23, 2022 5:55pm