He knew that when such dust settles on something like this, a stunning Stradivarius, (I’ll only mark it once, as you’ve used this word a lot, but remember to capitalise this word!) (beautiful sibilance, though!) he must not neglect it. The delicate strings ~~run~~ (ran) ( keep tense consistent throughout) above the dark oak figure, as if it was trying to imply that it was better.(lovely personification of the violin, here!) A hollow whisper rang through his ears while the body of the stradivarius rattled and seemed to scream silently.(I love this imagery!) It almost seemed as if a cloud of ghosts hung around it while they screamed their silent symphonies to the empty crowd. (this creates such a beautiful mental image, I love how it takes on a slightly unnerving tone here) There was no-one one listening. Until now. (great short, snappy sentences!)

To John’s ~~suprise~~ (surprise) , he found this ancient and melodic instrument in the place where it was least expected. This was his house after all, so why didn’t he notice it? (I like this rhetorical question. It’s certainly very mysterious) The appearance of the stradivarius was just as strange as ~~it’s~~ (its) origin. It had no identity. It was a nobody. (again, such stunning short sentences!) Nevertheless, it still had a soul within. ~~It’s~~ (Its) (just a note, slightly confusing, but ‘its’ doesn’t need an apostrophe when it’s used to show possession!) scars on its face seemed invisible and plain with wrinkled skin rippling across the ridge. (I really like how you’ve humanised this instrument, with its ‘wrinkled skin’) Ever corner creaked, trying to escape from its abandoned body that didn’t belong to itself.

John heard voices within the wooden barriers while the fire crackled non-stop, for him, there was no wall between. He was certain that there was a message left by the soul of the stradivarius and his mission was to decode it.(This is lovely! I really like that you’ve turned it into this mystery for John, maintaining his curious spirit from the extract!) But he soon realised that he didn’t need to because it talked to him. A vision, or a ~~spectrum~~ (spectre) perhaps, just slithered out of their stradivarius like a reptile in the undergrowth. A spirit? It seemed more like a ghost. Only one thing came to John’s mind; this stradivarius is haunted. (love this ending!)
– Sisley

**Content and Style:** 18/20

**Spelling and Grammar:** 7/10

**Overall:** 25/30

**What Went Well:**

* I love how you humanise the violin here, Sisley! You describe it with ‘wrinkled skin’, with ‘scars on its face’. I absolutely love that you’ve done this, as it makes it feel like a person who’s been trapped all that time, making the recovery of it seem even more important! Really brilliant style there.
* I love your use of imagery in this piece, especially the line, ‘as if a cloud of ghosts hung around it while they screamed their silent symphonies to the empty crowd.’ This is so vivid, and you even manage to get some sibilance in here, and the whole line is metaphorical as well as being a simile! So, so impressive!
* You really successfully complete the task, staying true to John’s curious character, as well as the mysterious nature of the extract. This is perfect for this task, and I feel you’ve taken this in a very eerie, creative direction! You show great flair, well done!

**Even Better If…:**

* Just make super sure to check over your grammar and spelling before you submit your work! Also, a little point that you use ‘its’ to show possession: ‘the violin showed its true nature’. And ‘it’s’ as a contraction of ‘it is’: ‘it’s cloudy outside’. These are just small grammar points to take note of that, if corrected, will change the whole flow of your writing.
* I would love to see you making more of the eerie atmosphere right from the beginning, perhaps foreshadowing that something haunting is going on with the violin. You could even open with something more upbeat, as a ‘calm before the storm’ idea. I think overall just making more of the creepy story throughout would be gorgeous!
* I think you could definitely try to experiment more with punctuation, maybe using more colons, semi-colons, dashes etc. You use a couple of pieces of engaging punctuation, but I think you could definitely branch out more, and really challenge yourself!

Overall, thrilling work, well done!