

THE POWER OF THE ELEMENTS

Chapter One

Omit adverbs, they are unnecessary and clutter things up.

End your sentence. Then, "Everyone turned around..." Sentences should not drag on, shorter, snapper sentences improve the flow of your work.

Better as "Miss Oh-so-perfect", nice use of lang here :)

Weak verb. Better if you wrote "I felt my cheeks start to burn up." If you are the first person how do you know what colour you turned?

Replace this word with "laugh" and grammatically it doesn't make sense. Also, is the "whole school" there? Better if you say "The whole crowd exploded into laughter.."

"Look everyone!" Chelsea said loudly, making everyone turn around to hear what Ms. Oh-so-perfect had to say. Smirking with the rest of her Giggly-girl gang she pointed at my wet jeans and the puddle of water at my feet. "Looks like somebody to had to go tinkle!" She said in a high voice and I turned a bright and embarrassing shade of red.

The whole school exploded into a loud guffaw and I glared at Chelsea. Couldn't they see the empty glass of water that she'd just thrown at me for calling her a stupid Blondie with a big ego? Well excuse me for being truthful! I couldn't believe that my all-time tormentor had gotten the better of me once again. Suddenly I felt my fingertips tingling and alarmed, rushed out of the school corridor and into an empty classroom so I could regain my dignity and my control over the elementals.

The moment I closed the door of the history class, letting out a sharp breath, the air-elementals materialised before me.

"How many times have I told you guys to keep it low key at school?" I asked them impatiently as I tried to wipe my trousers dry.

"It wasn't us!" One of them said as the water-elementals formed in mid-air to join them.

"It was the fire-elementals!" one of them retorted. I think her name was Arya... I wasn't sure – each separate elemental clan tended to name each other identically, at least they sounded the same. My eyes slid back into focus and I realised that the fire-elementals had also joined the picture.

"Admit it! You almost unleashed the power of fire!" The water and air elementals were saying.

"We did not!" The fire-elementals retorted.

"Did too!"

"Did not!"

British? Me too. I'd still use a z here, the Oxford English Dictionary actually prefers the z nowadays.

Delete this, replace with "wiping my trousers dry." Reads better.

Isn't this a character from Eragon? If so – I would rename immediately!

Ok, you are trying not to info-dump but I don't understand what you are saying at all about the elementals. And therefore the rest of this chapter is confusing.

"Did t---"

"Well whoever and whatever clan did it, don't do it again." I cut through the argument sternly. "Now help me dry out!"

The water-elementals moved away to safety and the air elementals blew a gentle warm breeze at me, using the heat provided by the fire-elementals. Before long, the embarrassing wet patch on my jeans had evaporated and by this time the earth-elementals had decided to show up.

"I don't understand why you don't get back at that bully..." Thorn, a young and reckless earth-elemental said.

"You know I can't use elemental sources in the human world," I muttered.

"Not yet...but in time, when you have mastered and embraced the Power of the Elements within you, you will." The old and wise Terranius said. Honestly, the guy could be a yoga master if he was human...He was killing me with wisdom!

"you will," the old and wise...
is standard punctuation...

"Save the lecture for later grandpa, I'm gonna be late for chemistry class." I said and the elementals nodded and disappeared.

But I could still feel their power flowing through my veins as I headed for the science labs. I slid onto my seat, ignoring my classmates' sniggers, thinking: Mastering control over the Power of the Elements...Yeah right!

A fortnight Earlier...

Why not put this first instead of backtracking? This may explain the elementals a lot better...

Wordy, I like the studies reference, but consider rephrasing.

Sat.

I was sitting cross-legged on a stone floor, in a dark cave that looked just like I'd imagined the three witches' lair when we were doing Macbeth last year. An old woman was sitting opposite me. Her wrinkled face was a mixture of sadness and worn beauty and her expression was grim. A row of four wooden grails lay between us. One contained water, another soil, another was empty and a small fire was burning in the fourth. Okay...weird...

Really? I'm not convinced that your character has been randomly chosen for this task. There has to be a reason for me.

"Evil has been unleashed upon nature once more, and you, you my daughter, have been chosen to be the guardian." She croaked, facing me.

Do caves have ceilings?

She looked up at the ceiling of the cave, which instantly disappeared, revealing a cloudy and grey sky. She raised her arms above her head, "Elements! I call upon you in this dark hour, to join forces and to vanquish the darkness engulfing me, your Goddess, your Queen: Gaia!" and she made a strange sign with her hands. There was a deafening explosion and suddenly we were surrounded by a whirlwind of fire, water, air and earth...it swirled faster and faster and my hair was whipping across my face. And then the whirlwind of elements gushed into me – and I sat up in my bed, sweating and breathing sharply in the dark.

No. Change the name, Gaia is overused.

Adverbs! Get rid.

Adverb.

You've said this too many times now, consider deleting some of your darkness references.

I searched blindly for my glasses on my bedside table and slipped them onto my nose. Wow...that was the weirdest dream...I thought in the dark. I switched the light on. The alarm clock on my bedside table said it was seven in the morning. Today was the first of April...my mum was probably up and would soon be telling me and my little brother to get ready for school. I got out of bed and tiptoed into the bathroom. I brushed my teeth and showered and went back into my room.

But I stopped in my tracks at the door...for although I had just entered my bedroom, it seemed that I had walked into a very rowdy and extremely colourful classroom. My room was occupied by no less than eight extremely weird...creatures... But what made me stop and scream at the top of my lungs was the fact that two of them seemed to be made of fire, two of water, two of air and two of earth.

I don't know if I screamed for one second or for fifteen minutes...I just remember screaming with shock. When I finally stopped I heard my mum calling from the kitchen, downstairs, asking what was wrong. I did not answer. I was too busy trying to find a suitable explanation for what I was seeing. Maybe I'm still dreaming...I thought. I pinched myself hard.

"Ow!! Oh man!" I groaned when I realised I wasn't still asleep.

"Lena, honey, answer me! Is everything alright? Are you all right?" My mum called, sounding extremely worried.

"I'm fine!" I called back, keeping my eyes fixed on my visitors. Then I sighed in relief.

"Okay...people...nice prank...I have to admit it...this is really good graphic..." I said called out. Nothing happened.

"Okay guys! I get it! April fool prank..." I said.

"Great! We had to pick April fool to make an appearance!" One of the graphics said.

Watch your speech syntax.
Speech goes like this.
"Hello, I'm speaking," said John.
The comma comes before the
closing speech mark.
Speech.

"Lena, this isn't a trick. Sit down, we have much to explain." Another said.

"Okay guys, I get it, good one...but it's not funny anymore." I called out again looking around. "Come on out!"

But nobody came out from under my bed laughing like I'd expected them to. Nobody climbed out of the wardrobe giggling. My heart started thudding loudly again. One of the eight weird creatures moved forward. It was made of Earth.

"Lena, sit down, this is no joke. It is a very serious matter."

"Oh man!" I whimpered. I shuffled to my bed. The eight creatures surrounded me in an even semi-circle.

Tags are redundant. Stick to
said and use others sparingly.

"What's happening?" I squeaked as I opened and closed my eyes, trying to make them disappear. But they stood there stubbornly. "I must be losing it..." I murmured.

"No Lena, you're not losing it...you're actually coping with it better than he did the last time..."

"He who? What last time?--Wait, hold up a minute...What are you?" I stuttered.

"We are the Elementals." They replied calmly.

"You're what?!" my voice was so high it sounded hysterical...actually looking back, I probably was.

"We're Elementals: masters of the natural elements, earth, water, fire and air. And you Lena have been chosen by Mother Nature herself: Gaia!" One of them explained. You are the second guardian!" She said. That all sounds vaguely familiar...I thought.

"A guardian of what?" I asked them curios.

"Of nature, naturally." Another said. They giggled at that remark.

"What happened to the first one?" I asked, frantically.

They shuffled and looked at each other uneasily.

"We don't really like to talk about it..." Someone said after a pause.

"Talk about what?" I pressed on.

"We will tell the tale...all in good time." The one who had spoken first said. "But not yet. You still have much to learn young one..."

General Comments:

Punctuation: Watch your use of speech marks. Remember it goes "Speech," said Character.

Grammar: Watch your sentences don't run away. Don't be shy of the full-stop.

Voice: Your character speaks like an American but you write with British spellings. Try and write your character's speech like you and your friends speak...it may be easier to make it more natural.

Person: When you are in first you must, must, must see everything through your character's eyes. Sometimes, you drifted into third and became a little "all-seeing." Especially during the cave scene.

Story Idea: For your age group the story is entertaining enough, not that original but to hone your skills this story is intriguing enough for you to continue.

Pace: Slow it down. More actions for your character, more thoughts for your character.

Structure: Don't go back on yourself. Start with the earliest scene and work forwards. This means putting your second scene first. You will need to edit a little so it makes sense. That cave scene is necessary so we, as the reader can understand what your story is about.

Well done, I want to see more work posted here.

Adam