Dear Kirsten Dika ,

From what I follow, Your Story “Automata”, follows the story of a seamstress Celeste living in Switzerland. She receives news of her Uncle’s Death and goes through a vivid memory of a visit with her uncle. She then attends the reading of his will in which she inherits everything from his . She tours his house and finds a secret room in which she notices a large doll with the build of a 9 year old. She finds a post mortem message directed to Celeste asking her to take the doll and protect her. It is revealed the doll is alive and sentient and the two live together

What worked well in this story was the way story was structured. It felt rather natural and worked well for I think you were aiming for. The way it introduces the characters bonds an the eventual going to the reading of the will was done rather well to the point it didn’t feel awkward. Another portion that was was done well the ending scene and the reveal the doll is alive. It felt rather humorous and in a good way. The character’s felt natural if one was put in that scenario and the MC’s resolve to look after the doll as her own child after contemplating having one in the beginning felt fitting. The descriptions felt rather strong and gave a good idea of how to picture the scene. The length did help this a bit thought. Another part what was nice was the setting it in Switzerland. You not only showed how knowledgeable you are of Switzerland and may have done research on this, but this was an interesting choice for a setting and it really added more to the story. Finally, it was an interesting take and homage to the classic story of Pinocchio as the ideas are similar.

As for what I felt was weak. The story was way too long for what was intended. Parts felt rather unnecessary and added too much length. I understand that you wished to add more descriptions, and some were done well but a lot felt unnecessary which really distracted me from reading even though I read quite fast. One other part I couldn’t enjoy was the MC. She felt rather void at key parts and there were times were, I got a huge whiplash from how she acted, was after she read the letter. While it you set it up well, I felt it didn’t work quite well and yet I couldn’t place why. The side characters really felt unnecessary as well, they were mentioned quite a bit yet didn’t help advance the story well at all. The brother in particular was difficult to figure out the inclusion as not only was he mentioned a bit frequently, yet we never hear much from him or otherwise. Maybe make him come to the reading of the will and add more personality to him there. Finally, some of the word choices used felt rather tough, while you really showed diverse vocabulary and good use of them (as seen in your first story), there was a few times I felt, again it was unnecessary. I would advise reading over it one last time and looking over the scenes which were rather long and seeing how you could summarize it whilst aiming for the same goal.

Overall, this was a nice story Kirsten. It was a nice take on Pinocchio and followed a simple yet effective flow that really invested the reader into the characters an story. Good Luck!

Sanad Masannat