FACTUAL DESCRIPTION

PURPOSE: The purpose of a factual description is to inform the reader about how horrible or magnificent the picture is.

In New Zealand there is a spectacular place that has been captured within a large photograph.

The surroundings are made of many shapes and sizes. There are many mountains in the background topped with snow and subtle shades of blue in the sky. There are also shades of blue around the peaks of the towering mountains.

In the midground, there are many green trees, plants, scrubby bushes, and smooth, oval shaped stones and pebbles. A great example of reflection is in this picture. A still dark pond, positioned in the foreground, is reflecting, most of the picture.

Not only are the mountains topped with smooth, white snow and ice but their shape and shades of colour are eye catching.

The trees are a mineral green and are growing from half-way up the mountain spreading down to the very bottom, before meeting up with a large lake spreading from one end of the picture to the other. The spiky plants are a gentle mix between emerald, and mineral green and they aren’t very tall. A dark mineral green would be the best colour to describe the scrubby bushes. If you watch “The Simpsons” you will know what I mean when I say the plants look like “Side-Show Bob’s” hair-do, but if you don’t, I can describe the leafy plants almost like an echidnas back. Each leaf, goes a different way and they go around in a circle like a flower with many layers. The scrubby bushes look like a camellia tree with less leaves and the branches are spaced not like some trees.

Just before the foreground begins, there is a small bridge of smooth stones and pebbles, enclosing the reflecting pond. The pebbles and stones are mainly brown and grey occasionally with tints of black, white, a light peach and dark and light shades of cream.

Although this scene is set in New Zealand it looks like a cool summer or spring in a country like Switzerland or Norway.

Grade Commentary

Casey has demonstrated extensive knowledge and understanding of the structure and features of a factual description. The photograph has been critically analysed using appropriate technical and descriptive language, and there is effective use of metaphor and simile. There is evidence of planning. The references to New Zealand as being similar to Switzerland and Norway demonstrate links to new contextual knowledge.

Casey’s response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at a grade A standard.