I sit on a wooden splintery chair, stitching up my brother Peter's ripped shirt. I do this a lot. Peter always rips his clothes when he is working with the cattle. Then I get stuck with fixing them. My sisters, July, Anne, Rachel and I only do jobs like cooking, cleaning and sewing. I sometimes wish I could help my father and my brothers, Peter Bill and Steve, with the farming and go to school, but I am a young woman and I am expected to get married and have children.

My mother doesn't believe that I am beautiful enough to get married. I do not think that I need to get married; I can look after myself. I really want to be a doctor, the first woman doctor. Though I fear my parents are too poor to pay for the education. I want to live far away from this place, where it is always too hot and the dust is always getting up your nose. It makes your throat very dry and sore.

I want to live in a place that is not miles from other houses, where there is actually lush green grass instead of a terribly dry and dusty landscape where there is only a few trees to be seen. When I am a doctor, I will have lots of money. So that I can look after my family, and buy them horses. Then they will be able to get across our land a lot quicker and it will be less likely that they will get caught in sandstorms. I so very dislike sandstorms. Your hair lashes in your eyes and the sand whips across your face as if you are being hit over and over again with a whip.

Skilful positioning of reader to empathise with protagonist

Perceptive images of landscape used to develop character
Grade Commentary

Alex has demonstrated extensive knowledge and understanding of the structure and language features of narrative texts. A highly imaginative and engaging text with effective use of figurative and descriptive language has been produced. The writing is fluent and concise, demonstrating a very high level of competence in sentence construction. Narrative voice is carefully controlled and a sense of time and place is clearly and cleverly established.

Alex’s response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at grade A standard at the end of Stage 4.

I am woken from my daydream by the sound of my Mother’s voice. “Elizabeth,” she called, “are you finished fixing Peter’s shirt yet? I need you to hang out these clothes on the line.”

“I am almost finished, Mother,” I reply. “Listen, your Father and I have been talking,” she says, as she enters the room. “Is everything alright, Mother?” I ask, confused.