The purpose of my writing was to capture and bring back a special moment in my life. I chose to include this particular anecdote as I felt it best described my feelings at that time. I wrote it in present tense, first person, to give the reader an insight into my thoughts and emotions. My piece of writing is written in the perspective of a child and to create that sense of youth, I used short sentences. In the second paragraph, I describe the show creatively, imagining the songs, the dresses, and the magic.

As a writer, I have learnt many things about life writing and different techniques that can be used in it to evoke a strong sense of time, place, thoughts, and feelings. I discovered how to effectively use suspense in my piece. The last sentence in the first paragraph, 'And then they come!' and the vivid description after it, makes the reader want to read on and find out what it is I am describing. To finish it off, I wrote a short, simple sentence that stated what it was 'straight out as to give the mystery a finish, a resolution. The metaphorical description allowed the reader to imagine what it could be. I chose the anecdote because I gave description so precisely in a 'just-right' number of about a paragraph. I realised that it truly was the quality and techniques you used that made it really worthwhile to read because the first life writing I did was long-winded and didn't even get to the point. This experience taught me the importance of being selective, selecting a certain moment and bringing the actual memory back to life.

However, beyond the actual life writing, I learnt more about myself. Looking back and rewriting something that happened was difficult. Even though it was myself that I had to be in the shoes of, I really had to imagine myself at that particular age and how I thought about things.

I learnt to balance the information I gave and the information I did not let go of and found out that it was alright to leave gaps as that would help bring the reader more into the story.
I think I used writing techniques such as show don’t tell, suspense, metaphorical writing and description in general very well. I progressed as a writer from writing a life writing of two whole pages down to about two paragraphs, yet I evoked and captured the moment more effectively. I was also proud of my range of my varied sentence lengths. I especially enjoyed writing the description of the night and the suspenseful description of the snow, I think I used a lot of metaphors and similes in this particular anecdote. Also, ‘the night doesn’t seem so dark anymore’ suggests that the snow is, physically bright, but also brightens up the night and my feelings. That, in the 6th grade child’s perspective, it is somewhat magical.

However, there are some aspects as to which, if I were to do it again, I would do differently. I would have wanted to describe how I felt, the awe and wonder I felt more in depth by using more description like my eyes widening or me clasping my hands and bouncing up and down in excitement. Another is that I would have liked to experiment more with my tenses, such as using second or even third person because for all time of my life writings I used the same tense.

During this interesting, enjoyable and productive journey I learnt beyond the writing of life writing, but learnt more about me too, and that was really special for me.
For the First Time

I stand on my tippy - toes and rest my arms on the window pane. I stare out of the frost crusted window. Ice caked over ice. The glass has, yet again, become misty. I rub the window with my warm palm until it is clear. The night is piercing and sinister, the colour of a washed-out dark purple. Grey clouds loom above like lifeless balloons, moving ever so slowly. And then they come.

They dance in the wind to some song I cannot hear. They twirl their almost glowingly white dresses, none that I can see. They work some magic that will always remain a mystery. It is snow. It is even more special because it is the first time I saw real snow. I gasp in awe and wonder. I run to the end of the room and grab my silver jacket from the couch. And just to make sure I wasn’t dreaming, I bunch up my nose and wriggle my glasses to ‘just right’ and shoot a glance over my shoulder. It is still snowing. I bolt out of the door.

The night doesn’t seem so dark anymore.

Grade Commentary

Ainsley has demonstrated a very high level of competence in composing and evaluating a personal reflection. A sustained, sophisticated response with a strong sense of voice and tight control of language has been created. Extensive understanding of structure, language features and audience is evident. Ainsley has demonstrated a very high level analysis of techniques supported by examples from the text. Sophisticated vocabulary and sentence structure have been used.

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