End Stage 4 English student work sample – Grade C

Deborah Mailman

Birth

My eyes were blinded by the piercing light that suddenly flooded my world. I felt an icy wind come all around me and then a shrieking high pitched scream come from somewhere within me. Again, another ear piercing scream. I can hear weird noises coming from all around me, and then I hear it. The familiar gentle voice saying something I can’t understand but I know it’s gentle and reassuring sound. I’ve been hearing that voice for quite a few months in my tiny blindness of warmth and security.

Family

The air hot and sticky. I could feel millions upon millions of sweat drops falling of me like a tree letting go of its leaves. I was packed so tightly in the seat next to my four older siblings that I almost couldn’t breathe. I could see the bulls were angry and ready to be released. ’Dad better not get hurt,’ I thought. He could so easily get hurt, but why would he? He’s a professional; he can handle this. Buzz! The starting bell rings.

“That’s it Wally! You can do it!” I heard mum scream.

“Go dad!” I yelled. I was always the loud, outgoing one in the family.

Buzz! The finishing bell signalling that he made the minimum time needed. Yes! He did it!

School

Tick-tock, tick-tock, tick-tock, the complete silence was almost killing me. The words on the page just melted away in my brain no matter how many times I read them. Tick-tock, tick-tock, I still have another 15 Minutes left. The questions don’t make any sense at all, what do I do?

“I’m sure you did fine!” my best friend reassured me

“I hope so” I replied

“You are really smart Deborah, you always do great.”

Acting

Am sitting around a table just a little bit too happy eating the delicious food the restaurant had made, for my graduation lunch.

“Congratulations! It’s the year 1992 and my daughter had just graduated from the Queensland University of Technology!” My mother explained in a very cheerful tone.

“Thanks mum” I replied “But it’s time to make a break into the real world now. It’s going to be so hard since there are hardly any Aboriginal actors around.”

“You’ll be fine. You’re a strong, bubbly woman and very smart”

“I sure hope so”
Grade Commentary

Cameron has demonstrated an adequate level of competence in composing an imaginative narrative with a sense of time and place on the contribution of Deborah Mailman to Australian society. Sound research and personal engagement are evident and the response has been written using an autobiographical approach. The structuring of the narrative using subheadings is effective and indicates a developing sense of style, but at times the writing is self-conscious and the dialogue a little forced. There is some interesting use of literary devices, particularly at the start, but some of the language choices are a little contrived. Few errors are evident, but there are problems with tense.

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