End Stage 4 English student work sample – Grade C

Ernie Dingo


He glanced throughout the theatre, unsure of how to address the audience. Signs of apprehension flowed through his body and his fear and discomfiture were evident. He stood forward, reading the faces of the apathetic audience. His mind was half asleep, his body was exhausted.

Ernie sat alone, isolated from the rest of the cast. He could vaguely hear the voice of the director, shouting towards the actors. The past six weeks had been the toughest yet, despite his tireless efforts. Dingo contemplated whether to prevail from here, his love for acting couldn’t go unmissed, however, somewhere deep down inside him, his passion for basketball still thrived.

Eight years ago, Ernie was uncertain of which road to pursue. Basketball was his all, he cherished every moment of it, though as time passed, Dingo changed. Ernie recited his path towards acting, why did he choose this career, the career he never considered.

Lizards scattered across the ground, whilst the sun roared with heat. Ernie glanced over at the producers, chuckling in his mind at their state of well-being. Not a soul within the cast had adapted to the hot temperatures, all of them showing annoyance as the flies dispersed all over them.

Ernie relaxed on the veranda of the pub, paying no visible attention to the busyness that surrounded him. Every day at five, filming for the new, Aussie outback film, concluded. Ernie disregarded his thoughts, laid back indolently and nodded off.

Several minutes later, he heard the footsteps of another human. Dingo awoke with an informal “G’day mate”, whilst stretching out like an old, emaciated bird. Paul Hogan positioned his body on a chair beside the Indigenous actor, ignorant of Ernie’s fatigue. The two had only met several weeks earlier when their involvement in Crocodile Dundee II connected them.

John Cornell stood motionless, the final day of acting had arrived and from what he could see, an immense black cloud lingered over the production set. John cursed himself numerous times before addressing Ernie and the surrounding actors. For the past thirty days, since their departure from New York City, the production crew had been inundated with recording. With the movie appearing in cinemas a casual eight weeks to date, John was well aware of the threat challenging his work as the thunderstorm began with immeasurable authority.

“Whoa, this bar’s a bit flashy mate,” Ernie projected to fellow roommates. They all knew Dingo was referring to the five star hotel, they’d been accommodated in for the final day of filming. Whilst the remaining boys wrestled for their identical beds as if they were a bunch of four year old kids, Gus considered another set of filming wouldn’t affect his existence. They distributed their bodies amid the floor and consumed their dinner with a soporific attitude.

Tuesday morning began like any other…Later that night, the cast celebrated with a traditional Aussie Outback bush tucker meal. Songs were sung alongside the performance of talented guitarists. They commemorated their achievement far into the night until the campfire calmly perished.

Ten thousand feet up in the air, Dingo rested peacefully, whilst trying to disengage himself from the conversations occurring behind him. Ernie considered the offer he received three days ago, whether to participate as a host in the television series “The Great Outdoors”.
The plane touched down five hours after their departure from Darwin. The passengers of the Qantas Flight 323 strolled off the aircraft in an orderly fashion, the majority in a rush to greet their awaiting families and friends. Ernie left the airport with a discreet goodbye, knowing he would only catch up with them in the near future.

He dropped his bags instantly and crashed onto the sofa of his apartment.

The sun streamed straight into Ernie’s eyes, blinding him for fewer than five seconds. He blinked a few times before squatting up off the lounge, his exhaustion showing. It had been over four long, strenuous months since Ernie had stepped foot into his Sydney apartment. Dingo made himself a coffee before wandering out onto the veranda, soaring high above the metropolitan region. He situated himself on the banana chair.

Ernie’s thoughts wandered back to the days of his teenage years. More than a decade had passed by but it seemed like only yesterday. At the age of 17, Ernie Dingo represented Western Australia in basketball. He left his hometown, Mullewa, to move to Perth so he could continue along with his athletic ability. Those were some of the most content days of his life.

Unaware of the golden years that lay ahead, Ernie roused himself from his dream-like state and prepared for the working day.

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**Grade Commentary**

Drew has demonstrated an adequate level of competence in composing an imaginative narrative on the contribution of Ernie Dingo to Australian society. Links between the research and narrative aspects of response have been made. A sense of personal engagement and cultural understanding is evident. The structure is sound with a clear orientation creating a sense of time and place but the response at times lacks cohesiveness. There is an adequate sense of character and narrative voice, although the focus is more on writing about the filming than on character. At times the syntax is odd and a lack of awareness of the reader is apparent through the use of incorrect vocabulary and poor control of expression. Some of the ideas and language choices are clichéd.

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