End Stage 4 English student work sample – Grade A

Dear Kim,

How’s your holiday been? I heard you went to Egypt. How was it?

Remember how in primary school we read all those really good fantasy books, like “Deltora Quest”. Well… in English our genre study is FANTASY!!

To help us understand fantasy our teacher made us watch the film “The Chronicles of Narnia” and read the play the “the Lion the witch and the wardrobe”.

All good fantasy texts involve a hero, mythical creatures, obstacles a journey and a fight between good and evil!

Heroes are an essential element in a fantasy text. Heroes can be strong or a super human but they are always selfless. I like heroes who are ordinary but rise to extra ordinary heights however in this particular case my hero was Aslan (a talking lion with supernatural powers, he is also courageous and selfless. In the play Aslan sacrificed his life so that Edmund wouldn’t die. He is a true hero. C.S Lewis challenged my views on heroes by having both male and female heroes. Hooray! Finally heroes aren’t gender based.

The chronicles of Narnia has all the fantastic mythical creatures a fantasy should have. From chatty beavers to a faun, to a Minotaur and even a talking lion. These creatures add a sense of wonder and magic, especially with the CGI effects. The special effects the fantasy world Narnia seems real.

I think that the characters in the play were a bit different to those in the film. For example, in the play Lucy was a smart young girl. But in the film she was cute and sensitive. Another example is Peter’s appearance. In the play I had imagined him strong and handsome but in the film he didn’t match my imagination.

Do you remember when you and I used to wrestle in the yard? I always imagined it as a fight between good and evil. Epic fantasies depict between good and evil. This makes for excellent battle scenes on screen. But to me the most important battles are the inner ones. In both the play and the film Edmund is a classic example, he is a typical boy, fickle and untrustworthy. His victory over the weaknesses made me want to cheer. His inner battle was the biggest obstacle on his journey to free Narnia. Allegorically, Edmund is the lost lamb returning. His choice for good gave hope for everyone.

Aslan (the lion) and the white witch are pure things: one good, the other evil. The children being human are a mixture of both. Their free will, their choice, liberates not only them but Narnia too.

I thought that the play was superb. Especially since the writer could only rely on words to tell us the story and make us imagine the scenes. I loved using my imagination as I got to make everything up, including Narnia.

“The Lion the witch and the wardrobe” had dozens of fantasy kingdoms interning. For example, elements of Greek mythology the faun. Also Christian mythology the lion and the light at the end of the world, the lamppost. It even had elements of traditional stories as it included giants and dwarves. I thought that it was very clever to combine all these worlds, as it made it seem that anything was possible in Narnia.
There were many things in the movie which I enjoyed. Firstly the sound effects and secondly camera shots. The sound effects brought the battle at the end of the movie alive. It made it seem as if I was there, witnessing everything. As for the camera shots, I thought they were excellent. Especially during the battle when the phoenixes were swooping down. The camera was in the sky which made it seem as though I was a phoenix watching from above.

Having all these effects was an advantage for the film, as the play had to rely on only words but the film had visuals.

In the film many scenes were added. I liked the added scenes as I was able to get to know how the characters better. I watched Peter grow from a bossy boy to a courageous young lad who saved his sister from a wolf by stabbing it. He even learned to accept his brother Edmund at the end of the film. I really enjoyed watching them mature and grow into a happy family.

Overall I thought that the film suited our class theme more as it was a visual text and because of the reasons listed above. I also enjoyed it more because it wasn’t only fun to watch but I got to learn and understand the genre fantasy at the same time.

Let me know what you think, about both the play and the film. Write back ASAP. Have fun at school when it re-opens.

Love from your dearest friend

Grade Commentary

Marley has demonstrated a very high level of competence in composing a recount in the form of a letter. A sustained piece of writing with a strong sense of personal engagement has been produced. The letter is detailed and well-structured with a clear sense of purpose and audience. The use of language is sophisticated and a clear point of view has been expressed. An extensive understanding of techniques has been demonstrated.

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