End Stage 4 English student work sample – Grade B

The poem ‘The Loner’ written by Julie Holder should be highly considered for the anthology as it concentrates on students who are not so popular at school and how awful it is not to fit in. It can be lonely being the only one not invited to parties and not been able to show people your talents in either sport or work because you’re known as the ‘loner’. The ones who are considered as the popular kids have no idea what so ever just how much the ‘loner’ are, really hurting on the inside as they have no one to talk to.

This particular poem has great use of poetic devices such as the use of rhyming in all 4 stanzas. It is easy to read and understand as well. The use of the simile “sharp as a knife” enforces the pain felt, along with the use of imagery when the poet says “He leans against the playground wall.”

The poem focuses on many different emotions, especially sadness and heartache. As I have analysed this poem I have noticed that the poet Julie Holder is trying to send a personal message out to all students at school that one considered as loners. She is enforcing that no one should be lonely no matter what the situation is.

In conclusion, this particular poem would be fantastic for the anthology for stage four students as there are some lonely students at school that would relate to this poem and maybe after reading this poem students will wake up and see everyone as equal.
Bridge over troubled water - by Paul Simon

The reason I have chosen this poem for the anthology is because it is different as I have not come across a poem like this before. It is a really interesting topic. "Bridge over troubled water" by Paul Simon is about friendship, being there for support, and a friend offering kindness, a helping hand and friendship to another when in need. "Bridge over troubled water" has a lot of emotions such as; support, encouragement, care offered to a friend.

It has great use of repetition in stanzas 1 and 2; "like a bridge over troubled water, I will lay me down." These two lines are repeated in the same stanza again. And also the use of repetition in stanza 3; "like a bridge over troubled water. I will ease your mind." These two lines are also repeated again in this same stanza.

I found this to be an interesting topic as this poem is so true and it is happening in today's world. Some people are left alone and have no friends to look up to.

Also in this poem by Paul Simon he has used a number of poetic devices including repetition that I had mentioned earlier on. Paul Simon has also used similes; "like a bridge", metaphor; "will on silvergirl", "I'm sailing right behind." "Bridge over troubled water" is aimed to an audience who are involved in friendships and also to a general public.

In conclusion this poem by Paul Simon is great for stage four students as it shows how precious friendships and how life is. I would highly recommend this poem for all stage four students and above. Without a doubt.
grade commentary

bailey has demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the selected poems and presented a strong personal argument for the inclusion of each poem in a year 8 anthology. an appreciation of the thematic concerns is apparent, as is a perceptive understanding of the purpose and audience of each poem. although the techniques have been identified and explained, the connection to how these techniques shape meaning has not always been made.

bailey’s response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at grade b standard at the end of stage 4.