End Stage 4 English student work sample – Grade C

The highwayman

The highwayman is a narrative poem by Alfred Noyes, and also it can be a ballad. This is a story of a love between the landlord’s daughter Bess, and the highwayman. The highwayman is a robber and Bess is in a bit higher class with her family. They love each other and the love they have is tragic and adventurous. The reason why the police are trying to catch and shoot the highwayman because of his guilty but unfortunately, Bess get shot instead of him so she is dead. Highwayman was so sad and mad about Bess’s death so he says to the police to shoot him so he can die with Bess. At the end of this story, they happily meet as a ghostly reunion but it is sad that they couldn’t be together in actual life.

This poem teaches us about the forever love, which was strongly described with two characters. The love that they had was tragedy so it also tells us that if you love someone, you can sacrifice everything, well, if it’s a true love, it will last forever.

The emotions that we feel in this poem is a romance. When the highwayman met Bess by the moonlight, it was romantic enough to create the best love. ‘One kiss, my bonny sweetheart, ...’ This poem does tell us how much they love each other. However, the jealousy was the other emotion that they had in this poem. Tim the ostler who also loved Bess, was an enemy to the highwayman but sadly Tim couldn’t make his dream with Bess.

The style of this poem is a bit hard because of the language. This poem was written in a long time ago so the language is formal and difficult to understand. My personal opinion to this poem is very impressive because this poem told me another theme, which is “love of tragedy.”
A poison tree

A poison tree by William Blake used the techniques of symbolism very well. There are two main characters in this poem, which is the creator of poison tree and his enemy. The hatred between them is very strong so the anger was growing in one of that character's mind. He did not tell his anger so it was all grown in the poison tree. The reason why he symbolised his anger in the poison tree is this. The anger in his mind was keep growing like a tree, but it was not a good thing to grow so he put poison: 

Then the tree in his mind became a poison tree. It was at the ground and the friend took one of the apple and ate it so finally he is dead.

The theme of this poem is basically the anger between the friends or someone we hate. Also, this poem tells us what kind of effect that angry mind can cause in our life. After the friend’s death, he said he was glad, but actually, he would have made his last sentence to make the readers feel sorry so we realize how bad the hatred is.

Blake used the regular rhymes and rhythms so this pattern make the readers can understand this poem very well and also, this brings so much fun. The fourrhymes are AABB, and this poem is in 4 stanzas. Each stanza contains each different happenings day by day. The length of lines are similar, and I think he tried to make some suitcases in each sentence.

This poem appealed me because how William Blake symbolised the anger was poison tree and I think it was suitable for the theme of this poem.
Grade Commentary

Chris has demonstrated a sound understanding of the content and meaning of the selected poems and has provided a recount of each one. Some technical devices used in the poems have been identified, but there is not enough analysis of techniques and how these shape meaning.

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