Lost in a tomb

Four kids just living in the suburb try to hunt down a urban legend which they find out to be a terrible mistake.

Liz, Fred, Bill and Bob fly over to Ancient Egypt for a school trip on the 21st of March 1989. They decide to wonder off and explore a tomb with the biggest legend of all, the Blare Witch. They think their prepared, they have a map, torches, extra batteries, a video camera, clothes, a sleeping bag each and a tent.

They interview people before they start, everyone says the Blare Witch is true. The 4 still aren't scared. The next day they start their journey into the tomb. It's dark and eerie. They go forward looking at their map wondering to turn left or right. They walk on for hours following the left path. After 2 to 3 hours, they have been walking around in circles two or three times. They have been recording EVERY THING! They reach out for their map, IT'S GONE! So they decide to stay where they are and have a rest. Half way through eating, they hear a sound. "Bang Bang Bang, Tap Tap Tap," SCREECH! They turn around looking where it is coming from, they hear whispers. "Shh... Liz! Scream a terrible sound, they reach for their flashlight, there not there. They call out for her, "Liz Liz." No answer. They decide to feel along the walls and find their way out. They feel a shape, carved into the stone. They hear the whispers again. The others are saying backwards, "Don't
press button... button bad. Their are say, "dab not tub... not so crip tired." They push the conveyor. Sand starts pouring down. They can't breathe! They try to come up for air but water comes pouring down! It makes the sand thick and heavy. They can't get up! They all get mouthfuls of sand! They know they're going to die. They all feel a heavy hand pull them up. It wasn't fast enough, they suffocated. But a year later the police find the tape... with everything on it. Did the four kids really survive? Did they escape? If there were no survivors and the tape wasn't found until a year later... where did the stories come from? I wonder?!

Grade Commentary

Frances has demonstrated sound knowledge and understanding of the structure and features of a narrative. The text reads like a recount of an urban legend. There is a simple but confusing orientation followed by a sequence of events and a complication but the narrative lacks a strong resolution. Some interesting and varied language has been used but the text could be enhanced by the inclusion of more figurative language. Sentence structure is adequate but there is some confusion with tense, and inconsistencies occur in the use of punctuation. A plan has not been included and there is no evidence of editing. To improve, Frances could work on paragraphing and sequencing events, and use a multi-strategy approach to spelling.

Frances’s response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at a grade C standard.