Mid Stage 5 English student work sample – Grade A

NAME OF FILM: Harry Potter & The Prisoner of Azkaban

Only a Prisoner To The Film

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (PC)

Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Carly Oldman, David Thewlis, Robert Carthar, Michael Gambon, Pam Ferris, Alan Rickman, Emma Thompson

Director: Alejandro G. Iñárritu

Warning: supernatural themes may frighten young children.

The eagerly awaited third installment of the Harry Potter series has finally reached our screens. And all that can be said is that it’s truly a delight.

Once again we are welcomed into the world of magic as Harry Potter returns to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for his third year of studies. After being left at his large Aunt (Ferri), Harry learns his home in Privet Drive for the Leaky Cauldron Inn where he is reunited with his two best friends, Hermione Granger (Watson) and Ronald Weasley (Grint). But, an always life for Harry is more complicated now any thirteen year old should be. He is faced with the shocking news that Sirius Black (Oldman) has escaped from the wizarding prison Azkaban. And worse yet, he may be after Harry.

The nightmarish guards of Azkaban, Dementors, give Harry a few problems to deal with which he soon overcomes with the help of the new Defence Against the Dark Arts Professor, Remus Lupin, also his father’s childhood friend. Harry learns the extremely difficult Patronus Charm which protects you from Dementors and acts as a shield. The year progresses and the mysterious signing of the Goblet of Fire, the men of death, frightens Harry into believing no time in the world is up. He struggles with the revelation of who Sirius Black really is and what he did. In the end, it is up to Harry to make a life or death decision that could determine a particular character’s future. As always, he does not disappoint.

Radcliffe puts on a wonderful show as Harry yet again. And as we have seen Harry grow, we have also seen Radcliffe grow with the role. Other performances by Watson, Grint and Tom Felton, who plays the attractive ‘Harry Potter’ Peter Pettigrew, are enjoyable. In the film it is as if they have relaxed into their characters and are starting to bring parts of their own personalities into the scenes such as Watson who is no longer the upright boy. It all but a normal teenager (or as normal as a wizard can be).
Sascha has demonstrated a very high level of competence in composing a film review. A purposeful investigation of context and a critical comparison between the film and the novel on which it is based have been provided. Aspects of the film have been analysed, although the focus is more on the acting rather than other techniques. The review is well written and fluent showing a clear sense of confidence and personal style and a perceptive and insightful understanding of audience expectations. An awareness of the process of composition has been consistently demonstrated and a solid personal evaluation has been included.

Sascha’s response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at a grade A standard midway through Stage 5.