

English 12 Prose

Scale Point: 3

Comment

This paper was awarded a “3” because although organization is competent and the student demonstrates an adequate control over the conventions of language, there are errors in reading especially regarding the character of Mr. Ratchford.

In this story, there is a boy of great potential of becoming a hero. He is going to an ice rink to face his brother's team and this set up his opportunity. When they arrived at the rink, he saw his good teammate, who was a defenceman with his opportunity of greatness set up as well, Dave Ratchford. Dave's set up was that his father was going to play, and his father is a skilled player. These two boys did not suspect what was about to happen in this game.

The ice was full of players, fifteen aside, which made it a zoo of little hockey players. What set this game into a comical one, was what Mr. Ratchford was wearing: “battered CCM skates”, “dress pants”, “well-pressed grey flannels that barely covered his lace tops”, “small brown windbreaker and the kind of English cap that my grandfather wore at soccer matches in the old country.” Mr. Ratchford right away starts scoring and weaving through all the players like there is no one on the ice. He had such great speed and puck handling skills that no kid could touch him. I find Mr. Ratchford's character cruel and belittling, because he won't give the kids a chance to play the puck and enjoy the game, not just watch how he can beat a bunch of little kids like they're not even there. With the kids not being able to have fun or play the puck; they all just wanted to go home. “I don't remember how many goals he scored that day before, mercifully, it began to grow dark and we all wound our way home for supper, but it must have been several dozen. Our goalie finally gave up going for the moves that Mr. Ratchford put on him and simply stood there, hoping the puck would hit him by mistake.”

Finally, right when it is almost over, they get that one opportunity of greatness, their “rite of passage”. It begins with a pass from his brother to Mr. Ratchford, which both the narrator and Dave both go for, but Mr. Ratchford sees the narrator, so he leads the other way. Without warning Mr. Ratchford gets nailed by his son Dave. This makes Mr. Ratchford smile and changes his cruel character. So the narrator goes and picks up the puck to carry it down the open ice, but only one thing stands in his way, his brother. The narrator somehow deeks around his brother and the puck slides into the net and makes the narrator the hero and this makes his moment of greatness. This leads to him talking more confidently and silent respect from his brother.