

English 12 Prose

Scale Point: 4

Comment

This paper was awarded a 4 because it is simplistic and contains a lot of plot summary. The student clearly understands the development of the characters. The student employs appropriate references, but they are limited and awkwardly placed. The essay is organized and straightforward and has adequate control over language.

The short story "Rite of Passage", by Doug Beardsley, is about a boy who becomes a man, or at least thinks he does, by beating his brother in a hockey game.

The author and his brother go to the local skating rink to meet their friends and play a fun game of hockey. While they are playing, a local hockey-hero and his father show up at the rink and join in the game.

The game is a struggle for both teams, but in the end it is the authors team that wins. When the local hockey-hero, named "Scratch", takes out the best player on the opposing team, Scratch's father, it leaves the author with the puck. The only thing between the author and the net is his older brother.

The author gets by his brother and scores the winning goal, unknowingly changing his life forever. When the author gets by his brothers defense, there is a huge amount of pleasure in himself. It symbolizes domination over the greater foe. The author defeats his older, dominant brother, forcing him to respect and recognize his little brothers talent.

By defeating his brother, the author is filled with self-confidence; "My body felt transformed, my blood altered." Although nothing physically changed, the author's outlook on himself and his life have increased two-fold. "My voice was a good octave lower."

The hockey match changes the boy for life. It is the author's coming of age, his "rite of passage". "I was a part of a larger world. The journey had begun. I felt I could go forward."

000042 (329-09) – Comment

This paper was awarded a 4 because it is organized although it has a limited introduction and conclusion. Like many mid-level papers, this essay relies heavily on plot summary, although the student clearly understands the change the narrator undergoes. The quotes are used in a repetitive way, merely to restate the point of the essay (and the plot). Some of the language used is awkward (“more wiser”), but ultimately this does not interfere with the reader’s understanding of the essay.

000042 (329-09) – Paper

Each character in the story’s “Rite of Passage” has a development. Their development is their rite of passage. This makes them change throughout the story.

The boys were playing a game of hockey one Sunday afternoon. Mr. Ratchford and his son who they called “Scratch” showed up. Scratch was an awesome player and no one really knew about his dad until he started to play on the ice. He walked on the ice in old skates and no gear just a pair of dress pants. Mr. Ratchford had a lot of speed and could handle the puck very well, “had never seen anyone skate as fast or handle the puck as well as Mr. Ratchford.” He was getting shots in every time he took one so the goalie gave up, “our goalie finally gave up going for the moves that Mr. Ratchford put on him and simply stood there.”

As they were playing Scratch flew towards his dad and turned his butt into him sending him headfirst into a snow bank. That was his rite of passage beating his dad, “Mr. Ratchford had become one with the force of the blow at the initial movement of impact.” Scratch developed some more talent.

His brother was an excellent hockey player “my brother was an excellent skater and playmaker.” He grabbed the puck and began down the open ice for a goal but then he saw his brother. He didn’t back down he kept going hoping his brother would forget the moves he taught him. He doesn’t remember what he did but it worked he got around his brother and scored. Right then and there he went through his rite of passage. He received a new respect from his brother and he felt as though he were in a larger world, the journey had begun.

In conclusion everyone gets their rite of passage at some point and it changes people, they become stronger and more wiser in the sport. They gain the respect. “I felt I could go forward”. They move on they get more mature not just in the sport.

000101 (360-11) – Comment

This paper was awarded a 4 because it is a straightforward discussion of character development. The student has spent time writing a competent introduction and conclusion. While there is some good discussion of the narrator's development, the student mistakenly states that Mr. Ratchford develops into a good hockey player, when in fact it is the narrator's perception of Mr. Ratchford that changes. While the student does make reference to the story, the references are general and vague. The writing is competent.

000101 (360-11) – Paper

In any story the development of characters is a very important aspect in making it a good piece of work. It is good to have a study development of characters throughout the story because it makes it that much more interesting. In the story, "Rite of Passage", the characters of the narrator and Mr. Ratchford were developed very nicely.

The narrator of this story is a fourteen-year-old boy, who like many his age, enjoys playing hockey. Not much is told about the narrator, but one can read that he isn't the best of hockey players. It is clear that he enjoys to play the game. It is also clear that there is an admiration towards the brother coming from the narrator. His brother, which is older, is portrayed as an excellent all around player. The narrator, like any younger brother, looks up to his brother and wishes to play like he does. When the narrator gets a chance to square up to his brother in a one on one it is almost like a do or die situation. The narrator managed to get by his brother and this opened a whole new chapter in his life. Just by passing his brother, the one he looks up to, he is filled with new confidence that he, one day, can be like his brother.

The character of Mr. Ratchford is first portrayed as being an ordinary father who is just out to play with his son. By the description given by the narrator one imagines the father not being too good at hockey. He is described as being out of place in comparison to the others. As the story develops so does the character of Mr. Ratchford. He is quickly turned from the clown of the ice to an incredible superstar. The development from a clown to a superstar was very interesting throughout the story.

The development of characters in a story is as important as the story itself. If a story has characters that stay the same it becomes very boring. The development that was seen in the narrator was that from being an average player, in his mind, to a player that could get passed one of the best. Another development came from Mr. Ratchford who was at first seen to be a waste of space on the ice to the game superstar. These developments made the story much better and more exciting.