

English 12 Prose

Scale Point: 5

Comment

This paper was awarded a “5”. It effectively uses chronological organization. It is very well-written, but occasionally lapses into conversational language. In both understanding and writing, the essay is proficient.

In the story, “Rite of Passage,” written by Doug Beardsley, the main character makes the transition from boy to young man, in a matter of seconds. By overcoming his fears, he achieved something he may not have thought ever possible. He begins the story at the same level as all the others at the ice rink (in awe of their elders). But when he sees an opportunity, takes it, and succeeds, he leaves the rink that much closer to being a man.

When the main character is initially exposed to the reader, he appears to be just like all the other kids. Showing an obvious passion for the game of hockey, and the friendships made while playing, he looks forward to these gatherings. When a friend of his, “Scratch,” brought his father, Mr. Ratchford to play, all the kids, including the main character couldn’t help but, “to grin from behind [their] gauntlets.” The kids didn’t anticipate the old Mr. Ratchford with his, “battered CCM skates,” could play. The main character was on board with everyone else.

The game began as all the others, except that the children were all given a pleasant surprise. With the aid of the main characters brother, Mr. Ratchford was scoring left, right and center. His old skates glided over the ice, seeming to, “never touch the ice. He went by in a blur.” None of the kids could stop Mr. Ratchford; “he had all the moves.” The kids devised a quick plan to stop him. At this point, the main character shows signs of maturity, as he realizes he and his teammates must work together to succeed. The kids get ready to put the plan in action.

Mr. Ratchford attempted to get by the line of children that faced him. Just as he made his move, his eldest son hit him with a check, so hard, he went flying, “headfirst into the huge snowbank.” This was his chance! While all the kids watched the hit in awe, the main character put his stick to the puck, and took off down the ice. Just as it seemed he was going to score, his brother was back, ready to defend. Aware of his brothers’ ability, he was scared. Knowing not what he did, he got by his brother, and scored. He faced his fear, of beating his brother, and triumphed. As he left the rink, his blood altered, his voice dropped, and his respect for his brother grew. He was a young man.

All in all, the main character used his passion to help himself grown as a man. Acknowledging his change to prove his character to the others and himself, he seized the opportunity and succeeded. In a matter of mere seconds, the main character went from a typical teenager, to a unique young man.