

English 12 Prose

Scale Point: 6

Comment

This paper was awarded a 6 because it shows a thorough understanding of the topic. This student introduces a strong thesis, beautifully supported with concrete examples. The writing style is fluid and sophisticated. This is clearly a superior paper.

Throughout the story, "Rite of Passage", by Doug Beardsley, the protagonist undergoes much character development. In the story, the boy begins the journey of man-hood, an entirely new transformation. The story is set in a small city or town where a young man's first true love, is hockey.

In the beginning of the story, the protagonist, a fourteen year old boy is commencing his rite of passage, his initiation. The boy would go and play shinny or pick-up hockey with his peers and the older boys. This common bond delighted him, making him feel like a true team player. The boy had an older brother who he idolized for his incredible hockey skill. In the story, it is obvious that the hockey heroes were the popular, respected boys.

The protagonist had an overwhelming amount of respect for a boy called "Scratch." Scratch carried an air about him of both toughness, and fairness, qualities that the younger players were truly grateful for. The day that Scratch brought his father, Mr. Ratchford to join in a game, was the day that forever changed the character of the protagonist.

The boy, like many of the other participants judged the slight, frail-looking Mr. Ratchford, to be nothing of a threat. They were too polite to laugh aloud, but they did indeed secretly grin, thinking Mr. Ratchford to be something of a push-over. It was certainly a shock to all when Mr. Ratchford showed the boys the amazing skills he had, inspiring them all in a mild, modest way. It was that day that the protagonist felt a new respect for others. He truly understood the heart-felt quotation of, "Don't judge a book by it's cover." This experience was the beginning of the boy's maturation process.

While the boy's regarded Mr. Ratchford's hidden talents with a respectful awe, they were all quietly moved by the older man's modest abilities, and were inspired to become better players in a non-arrogant way. When the protagonist had his moment for glory, the chance to score a goal against Mr. Ratchford's imposing team, he took it, full heartedly. His heart full of soul, his speed accelerating with every stride, the boy managed to make it past his brother, an excellent skater. The boy continued on to make the goal, which to him was a mere formality. As of that very moment, the boy had reached his peak of success. He had become a man, a true force on the ice. To gain the quiet respect of his brother, to feel his body transformed, his blood altered, was to have reached his highest level of self-respect and utter happiness. He had now entered the larger world of man-hood. To become part of the bigger picture made the boy feel he could go forward with his existence. Each of us come of age at different parts of our life, his was on the ice.

The story shows how experiences in our life can welcome forth the coming age of maturity. A simple moment can forever change our concepts of the surrounding world, and those around us. It is truly the small, simple experiences we undergo in life that leave lasting, significant impressions on our soul.