

## English 12 Prose

### Scale Point: 6

#### Comment

This paper was awarded a 6 because the student is able to develop an in depth discussion of only one character. Quotations are appropriate and smoothly integrated. The paper gains momentum, ending with a thoughtful conclusion.

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“Things can happen on the ice that rank as the most significant events in a young man’s life....”, states the narrator in Doug Beardsley’s “Rite of Passage”, a story told by a boy who becomes a man. Throughout a simple hockey game, the young narrator proves himself to be a child no longer, but a man of more than just swift manoeuvres in the game of hockey.

As the story begins, the audience is introduced to boy who looks up to the older man, and older boys, around him. The boy, who also plays as the narrator, speaks highly of the other men with whom he plays hockey, describing them all as great players, and therefore “tough and fair.” As the narrator was among the clumsier players, he looked up to the fine puck-handling and swift skating of such men as Mr. Ratchford and his brother, envying their ability to score. He wished he could prove himself to be in “their league”.

When the puck shot loose of all the action, the narrator took the opportunity to seek out the net and attempt to score himself. Somehow, beyond his understanding he was able to skate around his brother, who was playing for the opposite team, and use “all he’d taught [him] and what he might forget.” Gloriously, he was able to score. Scoring that goal was much more than just a point in a hockey game, it was the evidence that proved his manhood, showing the world, or his brother at least, that he too was a “tough and fair” great player. The new respect his brother gave him, brought out a new confidence in him, one that he had never known of before. Scoring that single goal made him a part of an older, more mature world. He now claimed, “The journey had begun. I felt I could go forward.” He was a man.

Perhaps, to some, scoring a single goal, may be trivial, but to the narrator of “Rite of Passage” it was a meaningful, significant stage of his life, a moment that altered his perception of himself. Scoring that goal was his rite of passage into manhood. It was an experience that developed his character in a tremendous way.