

English 12 Prose

Scale Point: 6

Comment

This paper was awarded a 6 because it is a strong example of a first draft of an upper level paper. Its argument is clearly outlined and is well organized, using effective transitions. In a clear and concise fashion, this student demonstrates insight.

In the short story Rite of Passage by Doug Beardsley, the narrator develops as a character during a hockey game. At the beginning of the story the boy is childish and is learning as a hockey player. Through the middle the boy is expanding his skills and getting better as a hockey player. Finally, the boy develops as a player and a person. Through the hockey game the boy changes and is viewed with new respect.

At the beginning, the narrator is just a young boy who isn't a very good hockey player. He looks up to Mr. Ratchford because even though he doesn't look very professional, his skills amaze everyone. "Most of us had all of our equipment on but Mr. Ratchford came on the ice with a pair of battered CCM skates and dress pants." (paragraph 5) The narrator wants the agility and speed of Mr. Ratchford, but he is still learning: "I'd missed yet another check and was busy fishing the puck out of our net." (paragraph 7)

As the game progresses, the narrator begins to learn and develop more. The narrator is not a key player in the game and he is slowly beginning to have chances to advance: "We'd been spectators for so long that some things were beginning to add up. Also we were trying so many things that something had to work." (paragraph 11) The narrator is open to new techniques now and his open mind will help him develop as a person and a player. The narrator is now more involved in the game; he is now able to notice more plays and to be a more involved defenceman: "[He] was about to zip around me when I noticed Scratch coming at his father from the other side of the unruly mass we made – sight unseen and set low to the ice." (paragraph 12)

At the end of the story, the narrator is given chances to excel. He is taking charge and is being challenged to do well for the team when he faces his brother one on one: "I grabbed the puck and chopped up the near-empty ice on my ankles. It was all open ice to the net until I saw my brother." (paragraph 13) His brother is the challenge that he has to face. As the narrator skates past his brother he is able to score a goal all by himself. He is proud of the move he made by getting past his challenges. On the way home, the narrator's maturity is marked: "My voice was a good octave lower." (paragraph 16) The narrator's triumph resulted in recognition from his brother: "I received a new, quiet respect from my brother." (paragraph 16) The narrator feels proud to be respected by his brother because his brother is older than him.

Through the hockey game, the narrator has expanded his skills as a hockey player. He has matured because he now has a new respect from his brother whom he looks up to. The narrator has developed, and his new sense of maturity is paving the road to manhood.