The Gentle Marker

Sample student report

Student A’s narrative

Student A · Year 5 · Narrative

Example rubric score

40 / 47

These marks describe this piece of writing. Only the national test gives you a NAPLAN proficiency level. ACARA’s guide to the levels

Writing task

Year 5 narrative. The original task wording was not supplied.

What worked well

You let Joe escape the eagle by flying until it gives up. When the panther keeps pace with him, the reader knows why Joe needs a new plan. That makes his escape with the sap more satisfying than another burst of speed would be.

You give the chase and the quiet homecoming separate paragraphs. That break gives us time to notice a change in Joe: the bird who worried about getting home is now wondering about his next mission.

Your next steps

Revisit the moment Joe circles the tree. We know why he has to try something different, but not what gives him the idea to use sap. Let us follow that small step in his thinking so we can see how he solves a problem even while he is scared.

Try this revision

Replace the sentence that announces Joe’s idea with one or two sentences showing what he notices and how it suggests his next move. Read the chase to someone, stopping just before Joe pecks the tree. Ask what gave Joe his idea. Can they point to the clue you chose?

Words you spelt well

stomach, mountain, Finally, journey, calm, prey, enormous, entrance, formation, figure, massive, mission

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Your rubric

The examples below are taken from your writing.

Criterion and evidence	Mark
Audience How you help your reader follow and care about what you are saying. *“As he set out for the den, he wondered if he would ever see his loving mother ever again.”*	5/6
Text structure How you organise the beginning, middle and ending of your piece. *“Joe's mission was far from easy. To retrieve a golden leave from the den of the black panther.”*	4/4
Ideas How you develop your main ideas with details. *“He started to panic. He couldn't fail his commander!”*	4/5
Character and setting How you show who is in the story and where it happens. *“The young bird started to feel goosebumps on his feathers and the worms he had eaten earlier tumbling in stomach.”*	4/4
Vocabulary How precisely your word choices express what you mean. *“chirped a mission”*	4/5
Cohesion How you link ideas so the reader can follow them. *“As he set out for the den, he wondered if he would ever see his loving mother ever again.”*	4/4
Paragraphing How you group sentences and choose where to start a new paragraph. *“journey.* *In a calm and quiet valley, Joe decide to stop for a water break.”*	2/2
Sentence structure How you build and vary your sentences. *“By late morning, Joe was flying up a steep mountain when his wing got caught in the branch of a eucalyptus tree.”*	4/6
Punctuation How your punctuation helps the reader hear and understand each sentence. *“from the trees grasp.”*	4/5
Spelling How accurately you spell the words you use. *“leave”*	5/6

Your original writing

On the branch of a rough oak tree, Director Squark of the local bird medical centre sat at his desk and chirped a mission to his young doctor. Joe's mission was far from easy. To retrieve a golden leave from the den of the black panther. The young bird started to feel goosebumps on his feathers and the worms he had eaten earlier tumbling in stomach. As he set out for the den, he wondered if he would ever see his loving mother ever again.

By late morning, Joe was flying up a steep mountain when his wing got caught in the branch of a eucalyptus tree. Desperate to free himself, he pulled as hard as he could, but couldn't free himself from the trees grasp. He started to panic. He couldn't fail his commander! Finally, with a large cry, he yanked his wing free. Slowly, he calmed down and continued on his journey.

In a calm and quiet valley, Joe decide to stop for a water break. Suddenly, out of nowhere, an eagle swooped at him. The fearful prey flew as hard as he could through a rugged terrain of trees and shrubs, barely escaping the eagles sharp claws. Finally, the enormous bird decided to catch an easier meal. Joe, despite being completely out of breath, slowly kept working his way to the panthers den.

At the entrance to the black predator's den, Joe peaked his head inside the rocky cave and quickly removed it just in time. Inside the rock formation, hiding in the shadows, was the sleek, black fur of the panther. Soundlessly, the terrified bird crept in to the den, careful not to make a noise and eyes on the prize. Suddenly, a giant black figure leapt at Joe. The bird barely evaded the massive jaws of the hunter. Quickly, Joe darted out of the cave and around the tree, but the panther had no trouble keeping up. Then, the doctor got an idea. He pecked some tree for sap and launched it into the predator's eyes. Blindly the dark figure stumbled downhill. As fast as the wind, Joe flew into the cave and retrieved the leave. In awe of his accomplishment, the successful doctor made his way home.

He heard the cheer from his when he arrived to deliver the leave. Slowly, he relaxed back into the comfort of his home, reviewing his latest encounters with death. As his eyes closed, he wondered what his next task would be.