

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 10

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for this piece of the Portfolio writing.

The candidate was awarded **12 marks**.

Genre: Creative – prose fiction.

Title: White Rose

This piece of writing is based on the background to Blanche DuBois' tragedy in *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams. However, the success of the piece lies more with the accuracy of the parody of the social media posting and the language and attitudes of a Scottish teen in 2016. The writer has replicated the layout of a Facebook page – illustrations, photos, links to other pages. The detail of the followers, and the huge increase after Allan's suicide, is a telling insight into the obsessions of this audience.

The replication of the layout of a social media posting is successful, with the contrast of before and after demonstrating consistent shaping and sequencing which contributes to impact.

The tone which is created is generally sustained, revealing a distinctive authorial voice. The introductory page (2k15!) is successful in presenting the voice of a teen balanced between childhood: "...mom and dad have been perf too, they bought me a pony 4 ma birfday. Wouldn't want him 2 get lonely tho *hint hint*..." and adulthood: "... I don't think it will be long either until we finally have sex. My lyfs pretty gd rn but it will get so much better when that day eventually does come." However, the format does limit the potential for sustained development. This is clearer in the second posting after Allan's suicide. The writer wishes to explore the hopelessness of this character, but struggles to integrate that understanding with the language and perspective of Blanche: "He died. He died. I can't stop crying but suicide is the worst way to go. It's a false hope, a way of not living, of giving up."

This difficulty is most apparent with the writer's use of the autocorrect metaphor to convey Blanche's reliance on alcohol to numb her feelings: "... it is the only way to numb myself and to believe that what happened is obviously not happened, but thank god for autocorrect." The use of typos to suggest Blanche's increasing intoxication reveals thoughtfulness and imagination, but is not completely satisfactory as a way of developing the character. The final posting: "please help." may be appropriately melodramatic for the character, but places the writer's treatment of central thematic concerns and feelings within the range of 12-10.

The characterisation of Blanche is successful within the parody of the language and attitudes used on social media; but does not go beyond that into sustained insight or skilful creation and so places the piece within the range of 12-10.

The writer confidently deploys the abbreviations and expressions of social media to present the character of Blanche, particularly in the first posting. However, the attempts to reveal the deeper feelings of the character are not so fully realised: "... abdlgagabs I can't even deal with this I'm so upset and this is my real self and I've been hiding behind a mask 4 my whole life and now I'm just being serious and truth and honest ...". There is insight here, but the presentation is a barrier to the reader's sympathy for this character.

Content

Treatment of central thematic concerns / ideas/ feelings which reveal thoughtfulness, insight and / or imagination throughout.

Structure

Consistent shaping and sequencing which contributes to impact.

Tone/mood

A tone and mood which are skilfully created and generally sustained, revealing a distinctive authorial voice.

Expression

A confident use of style, technique and language with a degree of originality
This is an imaginative response to a familiar text – and task. There is clear evidence of imagination and shaping and a tone is created and generally sustained.

The piece fully meets the criteria for the range 12-10 and is therefore awarded a mark of 12.