

Candidate 1

Assignment writing title: Sgeulachd a' Bhodaich – creative – account/short story

The candidate was awarded **20 marks**. The candidate effectively opens with three short sentences which attempt to hook the reader and set the scene for the narrative. The description here shows a good command of language – ‘Rugadh e le sàl na fhuil, sgadan na stamag is bha a’ mhuir mar bhean dha.’ The rest of the paragraph establishes the character through use of simile and further effective description.

The next paragraph again demonstrates effective handling of language and description with language choice being particularly suitable; ‘a’ gleansadh ann an solais an rùm’ and ‘bhiodh iad a’ dèarrsadh le sonas’.

The fourth paragraph uses the image of a rope to illustrate the character’s connection to the sea and the narrative continues to build without overdoing description.

Up to this point one could consider that this is a short story but as the piece progresses it seems to become more of an account of a particular person. Direct speech is used to show more from the character’s past and the change which came about on the island.

The next paragraph relates an account of how the character learned to swim and again this is achieved through effective description which creates a picture of place ‘bha e coltach ri glainne’ and vividly illustrates feelings; ‘bha e a’ faireachdainn mar bhalla air a cruthachadh a-mach à cloich, bha e cho fuar.’ The paragraph ends with another effective simile; ‘b’ urrainn dha snàmh mar na sgadan siubhlach’. The use of word choice and imagery, rather than being forced and unnatural adds to the overall piece and the storytelling nature.

The next paragraph, which opens ‘Gach turas...’, works as another effective hook within the piece. There is perhaps a reason for the character’s sadness at mention of the sea which we may find out later. This is an effective writing technique and fits with the style of the piece. This is then revealed towards the end, again in a way which fits with the style of the rest of the piece.

There is a poignant twist at the end with the narrator’s discovery of a tin of herring in the cupboard to which she had gone to get for tea.

The piece is very accurate and has a good structure and shape with effective use of different literary techniques and language which maintain interest in the piece throughout. There is an understated simplicity within the writing style, and it exemplifies how nothing substantial has to happen for a piece to be successful. It is other qualities which come together to create a very good piece. It is notable here that the writer/narrator could be relating a real-life experience of a discussion with a relative or could be wholly creating the piece as an imaginative piece from scratch. Either way, the candidate has been very successful in fulfilling the task.