

Stage S1 **beginning** **example 2**

The student:
Year Level: 17 year old girl
Background: Karen refugee; in Australia ~ 4 months
Language: Karen
Schooling: Has been to a missionary school, where she acquired a range of English vocabulary.

The task – This was a diagnostic creative writing task.
Students had read the story of Ake & Paolina from 'True News Stories'. The student had the written story with her, but none of this writing comes from that text. The rest comes from her own ideas or recall of the story. The writing about dolphins came from her memory of the 'Free the Dolphins' text they had studied. The student did not actually fulfil the task requirements, as it was supposed to be in the first person.

The text shows that the student:

can write short sentences

can usually correctly use SVO word order


uses some common time markers (Five years later)

can combine clauses to make sentences – some have 3 clauses

can write to communicate ideas

can approximate narrative and recount genres

uses pronouns consistently



You are Ake or Paolina. Write a story about your life.

Five years later Paolina has three children. She has one son and two daughter. Paolina's son's name is Gray Joh and her two daughter are Dee bell Roe and Ku Moo Nah. This family is beautiful. Paolina is a good mother. They go to America and visit her grand mother and grand father. Grand mother has 76 years old and grand father is 80 years old. She likes sky blue colour and she doesn't like red colour. They go to the sea and watch the dolphins. Paolina children like dolphins but Paolina doesn't like dolphins and she likes the zoo and rose garden. Paolina's children look at the dolphins jumping in the water. Gray Joh says "dolphins are very nice." They watch dolphins in the sea. Finish and they go to the zoo because Paolina likes zoo. Paolina wants to see animals in the zoo. They see a lot of animals in the zoo. She likes a animal in the zoo, like cats, dogs, deers, bears, snakes, birds. Paolina is a good teacher. Paolina's children are students.

cannot experiment yet, but relies on repeating known structures and stories

does not yet consistently produce correct English sentences

is not yet attempting to use paragraphs

This text is typical of a student beginning to work towards the Standard at S1. She attempts to write down words she has heard or said, but these are not always spelt accurately. She relies heavily on proformas and other models of texts as scaffolding to produce extended pieces of writing longer than a phrase or sentence with teacher guidance, but is not yet aware that different text types are used for different purposes. She tends to focus on producing a final product, rather than recognising that the act of writing is a process that involves planning, revision, and editing.