

Stage S3 beginning example 2

The student
Year Level: Year 10, 15 years old
Background: Born in Vietnam, in Australia for approximately 1 year
Language: Vietnamese
Schooling: Age equivalent schooling in Vietnam

The task
 Text response – timed task
 The students were given an essay topic about the novel Mice and Men. Student had spent some time studying the novel before being asked to write a response to an essay question. Students were asked to write a draft, then proof read their writing. The corrections in the text were made by the student.

The text shows that the student:

understands the task - identifies key themes within the text and discusses them

does not fully develop ideas

uses paragraphs in a limited way

uses basic punctuation

limited use of connectives at the text level, e.g. first of all

uses pronouns as reference items

includes some ESL errors e.g. word omission, sentence structure

has limited vocabulary choices

writes with varying grammatical accuracy

Within Steinbeck's novel "Of Mice and Men" (1937), friendship are considered to be the main them of the novel. The friendship mention here are the friendship between the two protagonist, George and Lennie. Their friendship are too strong and it helps the novel a lot about the theme of friendship. But at the end of the novel, the tragic death of Lennie has turned the novel's them into loneliness. So let's go through the novel to find where it helps to know how is the theme of friendship and loneliness explored within the novel.

First of all, the them of friendship can be seen throughout the beginning of the novel. George and Lennie have been travelled together for a long period of time. Lennie, who is mentally ill and can't get control of himself, has to be under supervised of George. George is the protagonist in the novel along with Lennie who is considered to be the leader of the two of them. That's because George is a smart person got a better mind than Lennie to help him to get out of his trouble anytime he got into one. George has agreed with Lennie's aunt to take care of him when she isn't near him. As the long time they travel together, they get used to each other. Lennie used to get the pair into trouble and they have to run away. They have travelled up and down the country to find job but they always lose them because of Lennie. But because of the understanding about the inability to control of Lennie, George always forgives Lennie and helps him out of trouble. George often gets angry with Lennie because of Lennie's childlike behaviour but it is fades away quickly when he has a sympathy for Lennie. The understanding between or each other and helping each other when one of them gets into trouble is the result of a true friendship. As the friendship between them gets stronger time to time has helped to bring them close to each other. Whenever one of them needs help the other always stays nearby and gives a hand. For that reason, George never runs away alone without Lennie. They seem to be part of each other and it's hard to break apart the bond between them apart.

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However, the tragic death of Lennie at the end has turned the theme into loneliness. As mentioning before, Lennie with an inability to control himself always get him into trouble. That's even worst when Lennie killed Curley's wife. Lennie doesn't do this for meanness, he just accidently kill her. Because the dislike toward big men of Curley, he wants to start a fight with them and especially Lennie. He Curley always shows his angry everytime he talked to Lennie. He just wanted to beat the big men ~~and fires him if~~ and he did indeed when he got Lennie smiling when he talked to him. He start punching Lennie continuously and suddenly get fight back by Lennie. Then, Curley's hand got crush.

This is an example of a student beginning to work towards the S3 Standard (S3.1). The student begins the text reasonably well, elaborating on the key ideas in the first paragraph. However, as the text progresses, the student's control over the structure and cohesion of the text, and the development of ideas is less evident. Completing a timed task would impact on the student's response. There is evidence that the student knows what he/she wants to say, but does not yet have the control of language to express the ideas.