

Grade 10 English Training Papers 2004/2005

Reading: Making Connections

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When Jordin Tootoo played his first game for the Nashville Predators, he made history by becoming the first person of Inuit descent to play in the National Hockey League (NHL).

Skating Across Cultural Gap

by Kevin Allen



RANKIN INLET, Nunavut—It is mid-July, and Jordin Tootoo is doing what a top NHL prospect should be doing. He is training. But there are no

weight machines or stationary bikes.

Tootoo, 20, is on the Canadian tundra, just below the Arctic Circle—"on the land," as he would put it. Hudson Bay is at his back. Pockets of snow are visible over his right shoulder. He is using nature's Stairmaster—a 100-foot¹ hill lacking a single yard² of even terrain. To work his legs, he climbs the rocky incline with a series of powerful standing jumps—18 leaps and he's on top. To work on his upper body, he transports his 102-pound³ cousin Kelli Hickes on his back. To work his forearms, he switches to two full 5-gallon⁴ jugs.

"Forget protein shakes," he says, ripping off a piece of sun-dried arctic char, a fish, to enjoy after his workout. "How much protein do you think is in this?"

This isn't a standard workout for an NHL player, but there is nothing standard about Jordin Tootoo.

5 Even in a league as culturally diverse as the NHL, whose rosters read like United Nations roll calls, Tootoo's story is unique. He hails from the Canadian territory of Nunavut, where youngsters learn to hunt caribou, whale and seal long before they master slap shots. He had played only two seasons of

organized hockey before joining the Brandon (Manitoba) Wheat Kings junior team at 16.

All his close friends turn out to watch his games. The Inuit are accustomed to saving \$1300 just to fly to Winnipeg to go shopping; they won't balk at paying a few extra dollars to make the 2000-mile⁵ trip to see aboriginal history, an Inuit playing in the NHL.

Drafted 98th overall in the 2001 draft, Tootoo has generated more attention than a first-round draft pick, and not just because of his cultural background. He scored 35 goals last season. When he skates up ice, he's like a lightning flash across an open sky.

"He's been the most popular player on every team he plays on," Nashville GM David Poile says. "Fans were chanting his name when he played for Canada" at the world junior championships in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

He is short and light by NHL standards—but the Predators expect him to be a punishing body checker. His Inuit name is Kudluk, which translates as "thunder." "He's a torpedo on the ice," Poile says.

10 Other talented players have come from Nunavut; none has reached Tootoo's level of accomplishment.

"Think about it," longtime family friend Jim Ramsey says. "You are asking them to give up four or five things they value most,

¹100-foot: about 30 metres

²single yard: just under a metre

³*102-pound:* 46 kilos ⁴*5-gallon:* 19 litres

⁵2000-mile: 3200 kilometres

including family, culture, the people and the land. You are setting them up for failure."

Inuit have lived in this area for about 5000 years and moving away never has been easy, especially now when cultural pride may be at its highest. After two decades of activism, Nunavut was created from land in the Northwest Territories and became a new Canadian territory April 1, 1999. According to the Nunavut Tourism Commission, the area covers more than 2.1 million square miles⁶. Roughly, it's about five times the size of Texas, and yet its population is about 28 000. Rankin Inlet is one of Nunavut's largest settlements with 2000 inhabitants.

According to Tootoo's friend Jackson Lindell, when Tootoo represented Canada at the world junior hockey tournaments, many in Rankin Inlet held parties "like it was the Super Bowl." ⁷

"If you walked around Rankin Inlet, you wouldn't have seen anyone because they were all watching the games on TV," Rankin Inlet's mayor, Quasa Kusugak, says.

Jordin Tootoo embodies the merging of Inuit culture with a modern perspective. He has a scar on his hand from a harpoon accident he had while seal hunting four years ago. He also has his own Web site —teamtootoo.com—to market his hats and jerseys once he hits the NHL.

To appreciate Tootoo's cultural heritage and lifestyle, consider his grandmother, Jenny Tootoo, was born in an igloo. His uncle Johnny Hickes, is a successful businessman, yet raises sled dogs. The Tootoo family has found harmony between cultural values and modern lifestyle. In the morning, Jordin's mother, Rose pulls 2-foot-long⁸ arctic char, cleaning them and hanging them to dry in

the sun. In the afternoon, she surfs the Internet to see whether the Predators have signed any new players.

In Inuit tradition, family is among the highest priorities. Jordin is young, but he has the cultural understanding of an older man. And he appreciates and honors Inuit tradition.

"Jordin is the dream son," Mayor Kusugak of Marble Island says. "He was like that before he became a superstar. If Jordin saw you with an extra bag of groceries, he would carry it for you."

This is a close-knit community. Nobody knocks before entering. Even when a friend from another community arrives with three boys, she walks right into the Tootoo home. Jordin greets each boy warmly, and their dad tells them to go upstairs to look at Jordin's awards and jerseys, which have been placed in one room like a museum. "I want to open doors for other aboriginal kids," Tootoo says. "I try to make time for everyone."

20 Everyone makes time for him. After he signed his first NHL contract this spring in Nunavut's capital of Iqaluit, about 500 Rankin Inlet residents were at the airport when he returned.

Tootoo misses Rankin Inlet when he is away playing, but he has survived homesickness by "just not thinking about it." When he is "down south" in Manitoba, his mother sends him beluga whale, arctic char, seal and caribou. He struggled to adjust his diet while away from home but finally has settled on frequent meals of steak.

He was better prepared to leave than other Inuit players because his parents—although they could barely afford it—paid for him to

^{62.1} million square miles: 3.37 million square kilometres

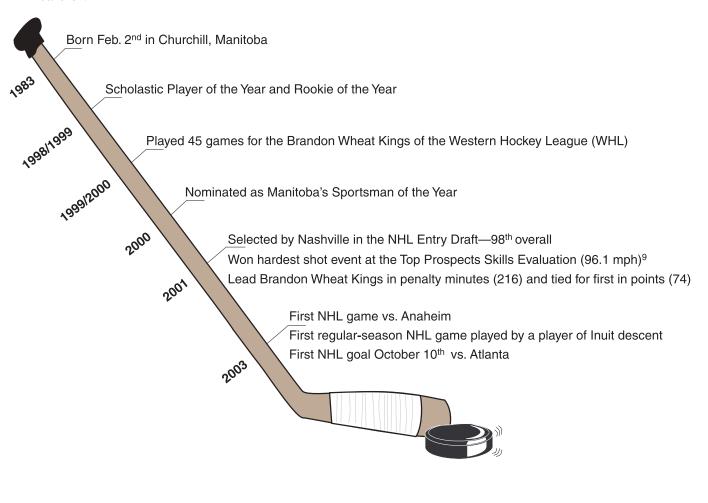
⁷Super Bowl: National Football League's championship game

⁸2-foot-long: 60 centimetres

go to hockey schools in Winnipeg, Alberta and British Columbia. His father had played senior hockey in Manitoba and understood the value of training and learning to live in another culture. When a junior team from Edmonton finally spotted Tootoo in an aboriginal tournament and asked him to come there to play for them at 14, his father knew he should go and begin facing the mental challenge of being so far from home. The physical part already had been taken care of.

Tootoo developed as a leader in Rankin Inlet. "He was a good motivational speaker," remembers Charlie Karetak, who used to play with him. "Everything he said we tried to do." His cultural pride was showing then, as it does now.

His goal is to win the Stanley Cup and bring it to Rankin Inlet. He wants to bring it to the inuksuk, a towering stone monument at Rankin Inlet's highest point. "Then," he says, "I want to take it out on the land."



⁹96.1 mph: 155 kilometres per hour

The Kayak

by Debbie Spring

The choppy waves rise and fall. I ride the wave. My kayak bobs like a cork in the swirling waters of Georgian Bay. I love it. I feel wild and free. The wind blows my hair into my eyes. I concentrate on my balance. *It's more difficult now*. I stop stroking with my double-bladed paddle and push my bangs from my face.

This is my special place. Out here, I feel safe and secure. My parents watch from the shore. I have on my life jacket and emergency whistle. I am one with the kayak. The blue boat is an extension of my legs. I can do anything; I can go anywhere. Totally independent. Totally in control of my life. It's so different back on shore.

I approach Cousin Island, where I have to steer around the submerged rocks. In the shallows, a school of large-mouth bass darts between the weeds. A wave pushes me towards the rocks. I push off with my paddle and I head out towards the middle of Kilcoursie Bay. Powerful swirls of wind and current toss me about.

The clouds move in, warning signs. I turn the kayak and head back to shore. The waves peak wildly as the storm picks up. My arms ache.

5 I don't want to go back to shore. Nobody lets me grow up. My parents treat me like a baby. I'm sixteen, too old to be pampered. I'm already a woman.

Just off my bow, a loon preens its black mottled feathers. It sounds its piercing cry and disappears under the water. I hold my breath, waiting for it to resurface. Time slows. Finally, it reappears in the distance. I exhale.

I notice a windsurfer with a flashy neon green and purple sail, gaining on me. My stomach does flip flops as he races, dangerously close. "Look out," I yell. I quickly steer out of the way. He just misses me. *Stupid kid, he's not even wearing a life jacket*. I shake my head. The boy is out of control. He's heading straight for the rocks at Cousin Island. "Drop the sail!" I call.

He does and not a second too soon. He just misses a jagged rock. I slice through the waves and grab onto his white surfboard.

"Can you get back to shore?" I ask.

10 "The windsurfer belongs to my buddy. It's my first time. I don't know how." His voice trembles. Is it from the cold?

The windsurfer looks around eighteen. I take a quick glance at his tanned muscles and sandy, blond hair. He seems vulnerable and afraid. His blue eyes narrow. "Now what?" he asks.

I reach into the cockpit and take out a rope. "Hold on." I toss the rope. He misses. I throw it again and he catches it. "Paddle to my stern with your hands." His board moves directly behind me. "Tie the other end through that yellow loop." I point.

He fumbles for what seems like several painful minutes. "Got it."

I stroke hard, straining to move us.

15 "Hit it," the boy calls.

"What?"

"That's what you shout, in water skiing, when you're ready to take off."

I smile. Slowly, we make our way. My paddle dips into the water, first to the right, then to the left. Beads of sweat form on my forehead. Suddenly, I surge ahead. I turn around. "You let go." I circle and give him back the rope. "Wrap it around your waist."

"Sorry."

20 "It's okay. What's your name?"

"Jamie." His teeth chatter. The water churns around his board. He is soaked. I don't like the blue colour of his lips.

"I'm Teresa. Don't worry, Jamie. It will be slow because we're going against the current. I promise to get you back in one piece." It takes too much energy to talk. Instead, I get him chatting. "Tell me about yourself."

"I thought I was good at all water sports, but windsurfing sure isn't one of them," he laughs.

I don't mean to answer. It just comes out. "Maybe with practice."

25 "Dumb to go out so far. I don't know what I'm doing." He changes the rope to the other hand, flexing his stiff hand.

The wind changes. A big wave hits Jamie sideways, knocking him into the dark, chilly water. He shoots to the top for air and tangles in my slack rescue rope.

He is trapped underneath the sail.

"Jamie!" I scream. The wind swallows my voice. Quickly, I position my boat perpendicular to his board, like a *T*. I drop my paddle, grabbing the tip of his sail at the mast. I tug. Nothing. The water on top of the sail makes it heavy. I drop it. I try again. One, two, three, heave. I grunt, as I break the air pocket and lift the sail a couple of inches¹. It's enough to let Jamie wriggle out. He explodes to the surface, gulping in air. He pulls himself safely onto the surf board. I reach over to help untangle the rope from around his foot. I can see an ugly rope burn.

My kayak starts to tip. I throw my weight to the opposite side to keep from flipping. My heart beats fast. "Keep hold of the rope."

30 "Got it."

"Where's my paddle?" My throat tightens. I search the water. "There it is", I sigh with relief. It's floating a few feet² away. My hands pull through the water, acting like paddles. I reach out and grab the shaft of my paddle.

la couple of inches: about 5 centimetres

²a few feet: about a metre

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"Hang on, Jamie." The waves swell. The current changes and we ride the waves like a bucking bronco.

I have to keep away from shore or the waves will crash us against the granite, splitting us in half. Just as we clear the rocks, a cross-current hits me. My kayak flips. I'm sitting upside down in the water. *Don't panic. Do the roll.* I get my paddle in the ready position. Then I swing the blade away from the boat's side. I arch my back around and through, keeping my head low. I sweep my blade through the water, pulling hard. I right the kayak and gasp for breath.

"You gave me a heart attack." Jamie looks white.

"Caught me by surprise." We drift, while I catch my breath. The clouds turn black. The water becomes dead calm. "For now, it will be easy going. It's going to storm any minute." I paddle fast and hard. The rain comes down in buckets.

"I'm already wet, so it doesn't matter," Jamie jokes.

I like his sense of humour, but I'm not used to talking to a guy. I've never had a boyfriend. Who would be interested in me?

"You don't know what it's like being so helpless," Jamie says.

I bite my lip. The kayak drifts. I see my parents waving from shore.

My father runs into the water to help. Everything happens real fast. He takes control. Before I know it, Jamie and I are safely back. My mother runs over with towels. Jamie wraps the towel around himself and pulls the windsurfer onto the sand. I stay in my kayak. Half the kayak is on land. The rest is in the water. I feel trapped, like a beached whale.

A turkey vulture circles above me, decides I'm not dead and flies away. I feel dead inside.

Jamie comes back and stands over me. "Do you need help?" he asks.

I shake my head, no. Go away! I scream in my head. Go away, everybody!

"Thanks for saving my skin," Jamie says.

45 "Next time, wear a life jacket."

Jamie doesn't flinch. "You're right. That was dumb." It is pouring even harder. Jamie hugs the wet towel around him. "Aren't you getting out?" he asks.

"Yes." Tears sting my eyes, mixed with the rain. My mother pushes a wheelchair over. My father lifts me. A blanket is wrapped around my shivering shoulders. I motion for my parents to leave me alone. Surprised, they move away, but stay close by. Jamie stares.

"Say something." My voice quavers. A fat bullfrog croaks and jumps into the water. I want to jump in after him and swim away somewhere safe. I say nothing more.

"Teresa," he clears his throat. "I didn't know."

50 I watch his discomfort. I've seen it all before. Awkwardness. Forced conversation. A feeble excuse and a fast getaway. My closer friends tried a little harder. They lasted two or three visits. Then, they stopped coming around.

The silence drags on. A mosquito buzzes around my head. So annoying. Why can't they both leave? It lands on my arm and I smack it.

"Do you like roasting marshmallows?" asks Jamie.

"Huh?"

"I like mine burnt to a crisp."

I hate small talk. My hands turn white, as I clutch the armrests of my wheelchair. "What you really want to know is how long I've been crippled."

Jamie winces. He doesn't say anything. I wish he would leave. The air feels heavy and suffocating. I decide to make it easy for him. I'll go first. I push on the wheels with my hands. The sand is wet. The wheels bury, instead of thrusting the wheelchair forward. I stop pushing. Another helpless moment. My parents are watching, waiting for my signal to look after me.

Jamie puts his hand on my shoulder. "Would you like to join me and my friends at a campfire tonight?"

"I don't need pity," I retort.

Jamie smiles. "Actually, I need a date. Everybody is a couple, except me. Where's your campsite?"

60 "Granite Saddle number 1026." Why do I tell him? What's the matter with me? I stare at my wheelchair and then at my kayak. My eyes water. Through tears, I see two images of me: the helpless child on land and the independent woman on water. I blink and the land and water merge. I become one.

I smile back at him.

Jamie pushes me past my parents. They stare at me, in confusion. "It's okay. I'll take Teresa to your campsite." My parents walk behind at a safe distance, moving slowly, despite the rain. We stop at my tent. I smell the fragrance of wet pine needles.

"I'll pick you up at nine." An ember flickers in the wet fireplace, catching our eyes. Sparks rise up into the sky. Jamie takes my hand. "One other thing."

"Yes?" I choke out.

65 "Bring the marshmallows."



- 30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in "Skating Across Cultural Gap" and Teresa in "The Kayak" to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.
 - Support your response with specific reference to **both** passages.
 - Your response should be approximately **one page** in length.
 - You may choose to use the planning guide provided.
 - Write your response in the **Written-Response Booklet**.

Planning

| Use this space to plan your ideas before writing in the Written-Response Booklet. |
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Possible Responses

The following possible responses are listed to support the use of the *Reading: Making Connections Written-Response Rubric*. The suggestions are not complete, and they should *not* be used as a checklist.

Both Teresa and Jordin receive strong support from their family; however, Teresa often feels frustrated by her parents concern for her. While Jordin s friends and community remain loyal, Teresa s friends have drifted away.

Students may make direct or indirect reference to these points for textual support.

| Skating Across Cultural Gap | The Kayak | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Jordin Tootoo s friends, family and community are very supportive. | Teresa receives support from her friends, family and others. | | | | |
| ≠ He receives support in his training, diet, learning and living away from home. ≠ His mother sends him food he is used to. ≠ His father recognizes that he must leave Rankin Inlet to experience other cultures. | ♯ Her parents are supportive. They allow her to kayak and stand back to watch and wrap her in a towel. ♯ Jamie treats her with respect due to her skill with a kayak. ♯ He sees her as a young woman he can ask on a date. | | | | |
| # His parents send him to hockey training camps elsewhere. | Teresa also feels a lack of support. ∉# Her friends have drifted away, | | | | |
| ♯ His friends travel to see his games despite cost and distance.♯ The community comes to the | some more quickly than others. ∉# She feels her parents are overprotective. | | | | |
| airport to greet him when he is first signed to the NHL. | # People have presumably made her feel uncomfortable as she assumes everyone will see her as limited. | | | | |

Other possible responses:

∉#

∉#

| achieve their go | oals. | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------|--------|------|-----|----------|------------------|------|--|
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| In "Tootooing overcomes her | | the Cul | ltural | Gap" | and | the Kaya | <u>ıke</u> , Te: | resa | |
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30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and

| 30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and achieve their goals. |
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| |
| "Skating Across Cultural Gap" |
| skating across cultural gap is a inspiring story. Jordin Tootoo lives |
| in a small town called Rankin Inlet. He has big goals set, and is not |
| going to give up. He has the goal of winning the Stanley Cup, and |
| bringing it back |
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30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

| Jordan Tootoo and Teresa both like to Kayak. I have a Kayak too. |
|---|
| Last summer I went Koyaking with my family. on Maine Island. My dad |
| and I used are boat while my sister and mom shared another boat. I |
| |
| saw seals and killer whales. We went swimming and ate marshmellows on |
| the beach. Next June we are going to Saltspring Island. |
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| Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and achieve their goals. |
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Jordan Tootoo and Teresa's parents both encourage and help get where they need to be, by buying the right supplies or by getting them to their location to alow them to finish their goal by themselfs without help at the end from the parents giving them the confidents they need.

By alowing Jordan Tootoo and Teresa doing and finishing their goals it brings happiness to everyone all though the parents may not have any more money they have confidents to leave home or go on dates with strangers.

30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

Family, friends, and community help Jordin Tootoo in "Skating across cultural gap" because without his family he wouldn't have the support he was given by his parents. For example his parents gave all the money they had to help himout including his mom sending him caribou, seal, and other of their native foods. He couldn't have done it without the cheers of his friends and his community in the crowd.

Friends are what I think helped Teresa out though. I think she likes how Jamie treats her like an equal and not like a cripple, and Jamie will help her out in this novel for years to come

30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

Jordin's Father beleives in him more than anything. His father used every little bit of money he had to send jordin to hockey in Montreal. Jordin's friends are probably even more proud of Jordin. His friends allways support Jordin at games or watch everyone of his games on T.V. Jordin's community is very inspired of Jordin considering Jordins the first Inuwit NHL player.

Alot of Tereasas firiends pity her and are in a way afraid of her. They do not spend as much time with Tereasa like they used to befor her accident. Tereases parents are very supportive they are allways there for her and help her when ever nessicary. In today socity every one does not think of people that are cripple, as being "normal".

30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

TooToos parents helped him, by supporting him in what he wanted to do. they payed for him to start out when he was younger. TooToos Parents cheered him on when he was at an important game. His parents were always checking on his team to see if some one was added or drafted.

Teresa's parents support her by letting her do something, were she feels in control of her life, and has her own independance. They also helped her by not embarrasing her infront of Jamie. They stayed back and waited, to give her a hand out of her kyack.

30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

Jordin Tootoo got a lot of encouragement from his family and friends while he was trying to accomplish his goal and get in to the NHL.

Many, or all, of the people in the Rankin Inlet always cheered Jordin on. "All of his close friends turn out to watch his games" no matter how expensive the flight is or how much they have to sacrifice. From the time he made Scholastic Player of the year and Rookie of the Year in 1999 to his first NHL season he has received a lot of support and still continues to get it.

Teresa has both advantages and disadvantages from the actions of her friends and family. She starts out by impressing Jamie but when her Mother starts to bring Teresa's wheelchair over she thinks that Jamie won't like her anymore. Afterwards when Jamie asked her to come to the campfire as her date she thought that it was just a pity invite. When he told her to "bring the marshmallows" she was certain that the boy thought of her as an equal.

30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

In both the stories, "Skating Across Cultural Gap" and "The Kayak", family, friends, and the community both help and and do not help Jordin Tootoo and Teresa overcom challenges to acheive their goals. Both of the characters in these two stories excel in a sport, and both are different from other people.

In the first story, "Skating Across Cultural Gap", family, friends, and the community help and support the main character, Jordin Tootoo, in acheiving his goal. The provide money to play hockey and encourage him to do his best. However, they also encourage him to follow his traditional lifestyle. They show how proud they are off him and believe he's a role model to all Inuit people. Although they do all this, they don't help him adjust to the NHL lifestyle. They always provide him with fish and other food from home, and don't encourage to live like other NHL players.

Similarly for the main character in "The Kayak", Teresa, is helped by her parents a lot. Even though her body is in bad condition, they still let her venture off on her own, in a kayak, in the open waters. They also help acheive her goal by giving her the things she wants and requires. However, they do not show her the respect she deserves. She has conquered kayaking even in her current condition. Also, she's sixteen so they don't need to pamper her as if she was a small child.

30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

In "Skating Across Cultural Gap", Jordin's family and friends support him encouraging him where ever he is and by flying 2000 miles to his first NHL game. They also watch all his games on T.V. and Greet him at the Airport.

Jordin's family also supports him by (when he was younger) sending him to hockey schools and sending him Inuit food. Jordin's kindness to his community was repayed by his communities support.

In "The Kayak" Teresa's family tries to support her by letting her feel indepent; although teresa doesn't think so. They let her kayak by herself and they also watch her to make sure she's o.k.

Jamie treats her completly as an equal and makes her feel more independant by asking her on a date and telling her to "Bring the marshmallows".

30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

In the passage "skating Across cultural gap" and "The Kayak,"

Families, firends and the community help them over come challenges and achieve their goals. Jordin Tootoo from skating Across cultural gap has support from community and was known as an influence before he even got drafted into the NHL. In Paragraph six it says that his local Inuits are accustomed to saving money to fly to Winnipeg to shop and they save up even more to see a local Inuit play in the NHL.

Tootoo's friend Jackson Lindell says that when Tootoo repreasented Canada in the juniors the Rankin Inlet held parties like it was the superbowl. I think Tootoo needed lots of support because hes basically dropping all hes ever know for the sport, and with out Family, firends and community all backing him up he probably wouldn't be able to see his goal come true.

In the passage "The Kayak", Teresa has something wrong with her legs. The author doesn't tell us until over half way through the story. So in the first part of the story we find out how independent she is and she is capable of conquering anything she pleases. In the second paragraph Teresa tells us how independant she is and the boat is like an extension of her legs, she can do anything, and go anywhere and is in control of her life. Her parents are supporting her but are giving her space and trying to treat her as more of adult. Teresa thinks that her parents are being to protective but who would. A girl with no use of her legs could be in serious trouble if she bailed and fell out of her boat. I think her family is trying to support her but she doesn't want it. In paragraph 50 Teresa mentions that her other friends tried to be nice and help but they didn't last long, so her

| friends tried to support but Teresa | didn't let them. I | feel that |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Teresa is a little hard on her self | which makes it hard | for others to |
| try and help. | | |
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30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

Family, friends and community help alot in Jordin's and Teresa's story. In Teresa's case, she feels so independant on the water but on land she feels like a beached whale. She needed a friend to help her feel better on land, she thinks it makes her look kind of pathetic to have her parents help so much. When Jamie aids her she feels like the helpless child and independant women have merged. With all the help from Jamie, Teresa was able to overcome her challenge and reach her goal. The community did not help and even though her parents tried, she wasn't appreciative of them. To some extent family and friend helped Teresa achieve her goals.

Jordin Tootoo had lots and lots of help from family, friends and the community. Every time one of his games were on television all of the inhabitants of Rankin Inlent were watching the game and partying. His mother would send him special food because it was hard for him to adapt to a new diet. Droves of aboriginal people would make the 2000 mile trip to watch his games and see him make history. His friends would go down to his games also, to support him in his endeavours. With all of the support he was able to overcome the homesickness, the new diet and other complications to achieve his goals and play in the NHL. Because he has received so much support he's now trying to give back. He couldn't have made it to where he is now without all of help from family, friends and the community.

30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

In both of the passages, "Skating Across Cultural Gap," by Kevin Allen and "The Kayak" by Debbie Spring, there are only some people that help to overcome challenges and help achieve their goals. There are also other people who worry a lot about Teresa and Jordin and think it is best if they don't become independent.

In "the Kayak," Teresa is a 16 year old girl, who would like to be independent, but her parents are always worried about her because she is crippled. Her parents "treat her like a baby." The only time Teresa feels like she is in "total control of her life" is when she is out on sea. Teresa's parents don't really help her feel like she is the same as everyone else because they are too worried about her. Her closer friends also don't feel comfortable around her. "They lasted two or three visits. Then they stopped coming around." The only person that makes Teresa feel as in equal is Jamie. He invited her to hang out with his friends and does not care if she is crippled. Jamie is probablly the only guy that could help Teresa overcome her challenge and make her feel like a normal human being.

In the passage "Skating Across Cultural Gap," Jordin Tootoo is a native hockey player. Jordin has a lot of close friends that support him. They show up at his games and even a few Inuit people "pay a few extra dollars" to watch his game. There are also Jordin's other friends that support him back at home by throwing him "parties like the superbowl" when he is in the world junior hockey tournaments. Jordin's mother also trys helping him as much as possible by sending him traditional food when he is down South. Jordin is not used to the

other food and his mother wants to make sure he eats to stay healthy. His father knew it was best for Jordin to leave home, even though it would be hard staying away at the age of 14. There are also other people who aren't as supportive like Jordin's family friend Jim Ramsey. He thinks Jordin is going to be a failure by "giving up family and culture," something that the Inuit people value the most.

No matter what you try to do in life, there will always be people who help support your decision. and others who won't be so supportive. Both Teresa and Jordin have not let the non-supportive people let them down. They are both still trying to overcome their challenges and achieve their goals,

30. Explain to what extent family, friends and community do or do not help Jordin Tootoo in Skating Across Cultural Gap and Teresa in The Kayak to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

In both "Skating Across Cultural Gap" and in "The Kayak" family, friends and communities help Jordin Tootoo and Teresa overcome challenges to achieve their goals by being there for them when the time is right.

All three are a strong factor in Jordin Tootoo's life. His family does not get in the way of his goals in life. They let him be independent. When he goes away the article says that his "mother sends him beluga whale, artic char, seal and caribou." This allows him to feel at home. His family doesn't suffocate him when he is away. They just send reminders of support. Support also is given to Jordin when "all his close friends turn out to watch his games." Not only do his friends and family there for him but his town of Rankin Inlet is. When Jordin played for Canada in the World Championships for Junior hockey the mayor said, "If you walked around Rankin Inlet, you wouldn't have seen anyone because they were all watching the games on TV."

In Teresa's situation her parent's support her yet her friends haven't reached a maturity level to understand her. Her close friends "lasted two or three visits. Then they stopped coming around." The probablly stopped going to see Teresa because they didn't know how to deal. They hid from their problems, yet lost a friend in the process. Even though Teresa feels that her mother and father are overprotective they really aren't. When we read, "I motion for my parents to leave me alone. Surprised, they move away, but stay close by." We understand that they give her space and are ready for her when she needs it.

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Rationales for Reading: Making Connections Training Papers

Training Paper #1 — Mark: 0

Restatement of the question

Training Paper #2 — Mark: 1

- # Misunderstanding of task
- # Too short to meet requirement of task
- # Addresses only one passage

Training Paper #3 — Mark: 1

- # Response is irrelevant
- # Misunderstanding of the task

Training Paper #4 — Mark: 2

- # Incomplete response
- # Support is flawed

Training Paper #5 — Mark: 3

- # Understands text at a literal level
- # Incomplete support
- # Unevenly developed
- # The Kayak section is underdeveloped

Training Paper #6 — Mark: 3

- <u># Literal understanding</u>
- # One sentence for each part of the topic
- Addresses the topic
- # Lacks detail
- Mo interpretive understanding
- # i.e. sent. overflow family one for friends etc

Training Paper #7 — Mark: 3

- # Addresses task but is incomplete
- # Lacks detail
- # Literal level of understanding

Training Paper #8 — Mark: 4

- # Some understanding at an interpretive level
- # Ideas are straightforward and organized
- # Misses complex ideas
- # Especially from the Tootoo article

Training Paper #9 — Mark: 4

- # Some understanding at the interpretive level
- # Misses more complex ideas
- # Supported by relevant details

Training Paper #10 — Mark: 4

- # Contains some interpretation supported by relevant details
- # Organized and straightforward response
- # Misses complex ideas
- # Little or no synthesis of 2 pieces

Training Paper #11 — Mark: 5

- **≝** Support is relevant
- # Shows understanding at an interpretive level
- # Stronger interpretation with Kayak

Training Paper #12 — Mark: 5

- # Clear and concise understanding
- # Support is relevant to task
- **≠** Interpretive level

Training Paper #13 - Mark 6

- # Insightful understanding at an interpretive level
- # Excellent support, thoughtful and well-integrated
- # Inferential understanding demonstrated in final paragraph

Training Paper #14 — Mark: 6

- # Well integrated support
- # Inferential understanding of both passages
- # Strong interpretation
- # Implicit understanding of nature of task

Writing

Suggested Time: 50 minutes

- Write a composition on the topic below.
- You may agree or disagree with the topic.
- You may include persuasion, narration and/or description in your writing.
- You may use ideas based on your own experience, the experience of others, or from any aspect of your life.
- You may also draw ideas from your reading, or your imagination.
- Plan your ideas in the space provided on the following page.
- Your response should be approximately **three** to **five** paragraphs in length.
- Write your response in the **Written-Response Booklet**.

Getting Ready to Write

Think about the challenges we face in everyday life, both as individuals and as a society. Challenges can be large or small. In order to meet these challenges we often need to draw strength and support from other people.

Topic

31. How do family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our goals?

| Topic: | How do | family, | friends and | community | help us | overcome | challenges, | and achieve | our goals? |
|--------|--------|---------|-------------|-----------|---------|----------|-------------|-------------|------------|
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Planning

Use this space to plan your ideas before writing in the **Written-Response Booklet.** Organize your ideas using a web, a list or an outline.

Writing - Training Paper #1

goals?

31.

| I don't like this topic. |
|--------------------------|
| I ran out of time. |
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How do family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our

Writing - Training Paper #2

31. How do family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our goals?

Are family, friends and community always able to help us? In reality there isn't always someone there to help, but when needed the most family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our goals. The family is always around, the people who see us everyday and know our habits, they want to encourage us more than they let on. The group of friends we always goof around with really care about us, and would give anything to see us suceed.

Writing - Training Paper #3

31. How do family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our goals?

Family, friends and community help us overcome challenges and achieve our goals by being there for us.

Also it's because if you need help someone, such as your friend, family or community, can help you with what you need.

Also they are all there to give you what you need to their advantages. Such as if they can get you can have it. Like if your family doesn't have it, you'd ask your friends, and if they don't have it, then you could ask your community for it.

I think familys, friends and your community should be willing enough to help out.

31. How do family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our goals?

Family and Friends help us to achieve our goals every day, wether its getting to a game or trying to get your first job there is always some one to help you. When teenagers are going to get their license, parents are always there to help tune up their driving skills. As people get better at their sports they end up traveling farther and farther, but there is always a friend there to give them a lift to the game. Wether doing homework or just studieing for a test there is always some one to help if you get stuck. There will always be some one to catch the ball when you're throwing it, to practice your pitching or get a longer throw to reach the end of the field in football. In life there are always people you can rely on even if they get no credit for you winning the game or aceing a test.

31. How do family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our goals?

We get lots of help achieving goals and overcoming challenges in our life. Our families help us a lot every day. friends are also important for us to achieve goals and overcome challenges. Our community also helps us. These are the main places we get help from.

Our families help us more than anything to achieve our goals and overcome challenges. Families encourage us to do things. They help us set our goals and to achieve them. families will always help us overcome challenges in our life.

Friends help us all the time to achieve goals we set and challenges we face. Friends can help us to set many goals we have. They can support us and help us achieve the goals. Friends are a big part of our lives and can help us in many ways.

Our community can also help us when we have challenges in our life and to achieve goals. Communities don't help us as much as our family and friends but it can still help. Tootoo's community supported him a lot. They encouraged him and came to many of his games. Communities can be very important to us.

With any goal or challenge we need to be able to achieve it and overcome it. Our family, friends and community can help us to do that. Family is very important to us, especially when we are growing up. Friends can help us all through our lives in many areas. We need our communities to help us sometimes. We can often get lots of help from all these places.

31. How do family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our goals?

Lots of people have many goals that they would want to achieve, and on the way, they overcome challenges that they have to figure out. There are many different types of goals that people want to achieve. Whether it's to pass school, lose weight or even save money. They're all goals, and our family, friends, and community try to help to achieve them.

I think family's try and help out as much as they can. you can always count on them, because they are always there for you. If your trying to go to college, and you need help to get money, most likely they will try to help. You might not know what you wanna do or what your goals are, and your family might help you out by giving you ideas.

Your friends can help you, also, but maybe not as much as your family, but they can encourage you in case your having second thoughts on things or if your thinking you cant do it. Your friends will probally be really supportive and help you along the way.

I don't really know how the community could help you with your goals. maybe they could work things out with money for college, but other than that they dont really help out, I don't think.

31. How do family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our goals?

I think that family would be the most important thing to help us overcome challenges and achieve goals. Your parents would show up to your every sports game or practices. Parents just showing up for any extra - out of school activities shows alot of support. Even for the in school activities as well. If my parents never showed up to any of my baseball games or dance recitals I know I sure would be upset if they didnt have an exceptional reason. If your parents buy you the things need to succeed at the activity or job being done, but not spending too much then that is showing great support which will help you overcome the challenges alot easier. Your friends are a great help as well. friends never cheered you on or showed any kind of support, it would be alot more difficult to acheve the goals needed. The community helps alot in a situation like this as well. With the community taking part in charitys or fundraisers, it helps alot of people get by and overcome challenges that may be to hard. As communitys these days are growing and becoming more stronger every day, it means the community may become a better one while helping ones that need it. If you dont have a little push for help in the academics category then you wont feel the need you have to succeed and move onto better things in life. Parents may push a little too much because they might expect so much out of their child but if you dont have the push or if you dont want to go farther in education or athletics or any particular extra-curricular events or activities then you wont achieve any goals you might need to pass. Sometimes if you feel you dont want to overcome challenges or achieve any goals then you wont get anywhere in life. Without your family, friends and community it would be a major struggle to achieve any goals or overcome challenges.

31. How do family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our goals?

Overcomming challenges and achieving goals can be quite discouraging to most people. Many people get frustrated with themselves. It is great help when someone supports and encourages them. Family, friends and community help us overcome challenges and achieve our goals.

Having support when you are trying to achieve something can do alot of good. For instance, going to their games can give the person something to play for. Talking about things can get you pumped. Also family can help you when you need money for things such as equipment.

Socializing with friends or people from your community can have a positive impact on how you achieve your goals. You can, for instance, talk about what's going on, and why you're having this challenge. Also, talking to people can relieve stress. Thinking about your problems is good, to a extent. You need to temorarily take your mind off things and just relax. Doing things such as going to the movies or the mall are good things to do to take your mind off your troubles.

Encouragement from anyone can boost your spirits and give you a positive out look on what lays ahead. If one of your problems is about needing more exercise, someone can do the work-out with you. Also, being rewarded after doing something hard can be something to look forward to. Friends, family and your community can give you many positive things to think about and help to make sure you see the light at the end of the tunnel, To show the hard work will pay off.

| In order to achieive your goals, you need support, socialization, |
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| and encouragment to make it through the challenges that may occur. The |
| one big thing people can do for you is to tell you that there is no |
| greater reward than the feeling you get when you know you have completed |
| your goals. |
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31. How do family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our goals?

Daniel had always dreampt of being in a huge rock band, but he never had any direction. Over the past year of his life he had been contemplating starting up a band. He had no money and didn't know where to start. He approached his family with his idea. They told him they would loan him the money to buy a guitar if he was going to work hard to acheive his dream.

A week or two later Daniel had purchased his first guitar.

Daniel's brother Matt had played guitar for several years and helped him with lessons. Matt had also brought upon the idea of Daniel singing.

Daniel was a little uneasy with the idea at first but later it grew on him. Daniel practiced every day and within months his guitar playing had already picked up.

One day Daniel was down in the basement practicing when one of his brother's friends came downstairs to grab a pop. He complimented Daniel and told him about somefriends who were looking to start up a band. Matt's friend quickly lined him up with an audition. The band said that they liked both his guitar playing and vocal styles and would love to have him in the band. After months of songwritting and practicing they decided they would like to do a tour if possible. They were all short on money so they held a carwash and other fundraisers. Everyone was very helpful, tons of people showed up. By the end of the week they had enough money to headline a small tour. The shows were very successful.

The bands last stop was in their hometown of Yarrow. Everyone for miles showed up to support the band, along with a record producer and a whole bunch of record company "big shots". After the show Daniel built

up the courage to go and talk to them. A man by the name of Jerry Finn said he would love to produce the bands next album. Daniel told him that they weren't signed and didn't have an album. Jerry said that he loved their sound and would talk to his company about signing Daniels band to their label.

Months went past and Daniel was having doubts about Jerry ever phoning him. Why would they ever want a small town band anyway? Just as he was thinking that the phone rang. To his surprise it was Jerry Finn. He told Daniel that if it were up to him he would sign Daniel's band in a second, but it wasn't. So the label said they would like them to audition for them. If they won then they would be able to release an album and do another headlining tour. Jerry gave Daniel his word, and said that he was sure they were going to win. Daniel was thrilled. He quickly phoned up the band and told them the news.

On October 3rd, 1999 Daniel's band was signed to the Atlantic Records Label. A few day's after their album "You are why were here", was released it hit the billboard's top Ten list. The band never forgot their roots and hosted a local band contest in their hometown every year. Alot of people always turned out and had a good time. After the third anniversary of the contest, their hometown became the focal point of local musicians.

31. How do family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our goals?

Challenges are something we all face on a daily basis. Whether it is a hard math problem or racial discrimination from others, challenges are occurring around you constantly. To overcome these challenges, we often have the help from friends, family, and even our communities. Without challenges, our lives wouldn't consist of any goals or dreams.

Some of the challenges that most people have experienced include learning to ride a bike or learning to read. Often, we don't teach ourselves these things and don't magically just know how. So who do we get help from? Whether it's your dad, your sister or your teacher, it doesn't matter. Whoever taught you how to learn these things has helped you overcome a challenge, no matter how insignificant. When we think of the word "challenge", we often think of something life altering. We don't realize the importance and significance of recieving help and support from your friends, family, and community. How else would we be able to overcome them and achieve our dreams and goals?

One of the challenges I faced growing up was the fact that I had asthma. I was always a really big sports fan so it made me so frustrated not being able to play as long. However, I still had support from my family to pursue playing in teams and also help from my doctor who gave me medication. As I grew older, my asthma began occuring less and less until it rarely even comes anymore. Without the help I recieved, I probably would've given up and quit my teams. I'm glad I overcame this challenge because it has allowed me to play in more intense and higher skilled teams today. Although this is one of my challenges physically, I also have had many mental and academic challenges.

In grade 10, I was enrolled in two Honours classes; one for Math and one for English. I had the choice of recieving easy A's in the regular courses or being challenged in more difficult one's. After getting support from my parents and teachers I decided to take the harder courses. At first I regretted my decision because I wasn't recieving the grades I wanted, but after a while I began to enjoy the classes. They allowed me to feel as though I had accomplished something after each project or assignment. Also, with the support from my parents, I realized it was alright to recieve lower grades even though I had tried harder. Without the help of my parents and teachers, I never would've taken Honours classes and enjoy it as much as I did.

Many people do not realize that the help and support from others is very significant. We often don't stop to think about how someone may have changed our lives. Whether you do or don't, family, friends and community help us overcome our challenges and achieve our goals in more way than one.

31. How do family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our goals?

The world we live in is full of social barriers, walls and glass cielings put in place by us as a society. It is a daily struggle to tackel the unsurmountable obstacles in our way. But, not to worry as there is help, this help comes in the form of family, friends, and odly enough the community which built these uncrossable rifts. Our goals can be achieved, it is a challenge but there is support to help us on our way.

We start to learn of the struggle ahead of us at a young age, but lucky we have parents to guide us. Parents not only tell us of the challenges before us, the also teach us how to solve these problems. The lesson being tought is how to live, how to adress challenges, how to interact with all different races of people. Eventually a child will come to a point in his life and realize, that there is something that they want. Now these lessons that have been learned are going to be put into practicle application, and chances are the child is going to run into some difficulty. There is no need to fail though parents are there to support the young one. Parents are there to nurture and foster this curiosity with the hope that some day it may become a passion.

Thats not to say that parents are the only influence on a developing mind. A childs friends play an important part in how a child copes with a situation. Good friends are there for support regardless of whether you suceeded or failed. Peer pressure, or the drive for peer acceptance is extremely influential on what a child does. A child may feel insecure if he or she can not do all the same things that the other children can, so the child branches out and explores his abilities looking for an activity he is good at.

The final and most discreet of all the influential forces is, community. This is the same community that was for the most part responsible for implementing the challenges ahead. for most just knowing that there is a wall placed in front of them is enough to make them strive to be the best that they can be. It is the human instinct to want what you are told you cant have. I dont mean to say that the only regard from the community is negative, just that the largest motivator is.

In the end all we are is an acompolation of events and experiences imprinted on an living canvase. What we choose to do with our life is directly influenced by our surrounding, ie. family friends and community. All that we want from this world can be ours all we need is support and time.

31. How do family, friends and community help us overcome challenges, and achieve our goals?

I grew up almost alone; my father had died when I was one and a half from brain cancer, and my mother was all I had left.

She was the one who tucked me in, sang songs on good days, and took temperatures on bad. She was my example of perfect. I know now that even perfect has flaws. I had gone through many hardships before I had even reached six, and the invisible scars are too many too count. She was a mother, a father, a friend and an enemy, and her influence on my life cannot be expressed in words.

Growing up, she was an example that I outwardly despised and inwardly followed. Now, she has taught me to be myself, accept what life may throw your way and make good use of it; I am not anyone but myself, and it's thanks to her that I know this.

I look back and see what my challenge was; it wasn't a sport or disability, it was much more complicated. Thousands of intricately woven threads bound together, impossible to unravel. My challenge was a life without my father, and my goal is a unique and happy existence. Sometimes I wonder how happiness can come into a permanently broken home, and I see my mother and know it's not broken.

Love and support from my friends and family are the only thing that can help me achieve my goals. My mother has given me so much more.

Rationales for Writing Training Papers

Training Paper #1 — Mark: 0

- # Note: second paragraph is illogical

Training Paper #2 — Mark: 1

- # Too brief to accomplish the task
- # Ideas are not developed

Training Paper #3 — Mark: 2

- # Ideas are broad generalizations
- **≠** Little support
- # Weak sentence structure

Training Paper #4 — Mark: 3

- # Listing of ideas
- # Errors are distracting
- # Structure is weak
- # Each sentence is another idea listed

Training Paper #5 — Mark: 3

- # Little support
- # Limited vocabulary and sentence variety
- # Despite clear structure, content is limited and ideas are repeated

Training Paper #6 — Mark: 4

- # Some sense of purpose
- # Formulaic structure
- # Basic vocabulary
- # Conclusion is weak

Training Paper #7 — Mark: 4

Ideas are straightforward and clear

- # Basic vocabulary
- Sense of purpose and adequate support
- Ideas are organized, but formal paragraphing is not evident see note in rubric regarding holistic assessment and paragraphing

Training Paper #8 — Mark: 4

- # Ideas are straightforward and clear
- # Formulaic structure
- # Basic vocabulary
- # Sense of purpose and good support

Training Paper #9 — Mark: 5

- # Well developed and supported
- # Clear sense of purpose
- # Generally engaging
- # Lacks originality and depth

Training Paper #10 — Mark: 5

- # Ideas well developed and supported
- # Appropriate word choice and sentence variety
- Logical and controlled
- # Goes beyond basic vocabulary and formulaic structure of a 4

Training Paper #11 — Mark: 6

- # Accomplishes the purpose
- # Effective word choice
- # Structure is logical
- **#** Writing appears effortless
- *∉ Expository*

Training Paper #12 — Mark: 6

- # Maturity of voice
- # Effective word choice and sentence variety
- # Engaging throughout
- # Highly sophisticated use of language