Stan Steel-Croker

Warsaw Uprising

November 25th 1944

The stench is unbearable. Petrol, fire and bodies litter the streets with a stench that could floor a grown man if he went above ground. I haven’t slept right since August 1st, haven’t eaten in two days due to the Germans cutting off our supply line from the north. I’m sure they were killed like everyone else the Germans killed, slow, painful and dying with a scared hollow expression; pupils dilating as the soul leaves and God abandons his children. I have a bag full of letters to and from dead men with a stitched on red and white banner gone brown from blood and grease. My own body looks like its own battlefield of wounds and grime, I’d be in agony if I wasn’t numb all over.

November 26th 1944

16 dead, 5 dying and 46 injured, most succumbed to wounds; others could not handle the toll of war. I had a friend named Alesky that we called Billy due to his love of cowboys when he was little, he was a good soldier too, even managing to get a reputation among some as “The Wind of Warsaw” after he killed 6 Germans that had him dead to rights. Billy got hurt in the last fight after he copped a piece of shrapnel in the back of the neck, he soccame to his wounds recently though, right in front of me. We were joking and laughing when he suddenly just stopped half way and I turn to see his eyes have gone the wide, hollow sight I know too well but his smile told the story of a man who lived a happy life with a family and home, I only wish Alesky got that because that’s what Alesky deserved.

Jan 19 1945

Dear Mr and Mrs Nowak

You may not remember me well but I was good friends with your son who sadly passed away due to serious injuries sustained during W hour on August 1st. Aleksy fought with a smile because he could always see a world where we wave the flag of our homeland in one hand while we beat down the final German soldiers with the other, he could smile because he knew we may not be on the winning side of history but we will be on the right side.Maybe if we had more men like Alesky we could’ve stood a chance but that could just be the ramblings of a boy stripped of his youth, clawing at the air praying that he can grab hold of something to bring himself back to a nicer time in his life.

Attached to this letter is a box of photos, letters and other such things. I also have in my possession: his beret, uniform and his guns. If you would like me to send any of these to you, do not be afraid to ask. If this letter is reaching you as it should you both live in England now, for any letters you want to send me, please send them to this address; 28 Oslan av, Warsaw.

Deepest apologies

-Dorek

February 1st 1945

Dear Dorek

There is no way to express just how grateful we are that you remembered our son, to know that he left behind a legacy instead of becoming another statistic brings tears to our eyes. On the subject of his belongings, we would like you to keep them as you’ll probably get much more use out of them than a pair of old bakers.

Moving away has been one of the hardest things we have ever had to do, it felt like we were running and forcing our children to fight our wars. We really miss our old friends, all the family dinners and meeting all of Alesky’s friends was always very entertaining. Learning to live in a different culture has been quite difficult; always getting weird glances due to our broken english.

Our country may not survive this war, we may fall to the Germans or the Soviets and they can erase homes, people but they cannot erase memories and hope.

Thank you for your service to our family and country.

-Ola and Krisnof Nowak

October 10th 1974

I found this old journal while sorting through old boxes and wanted to see what had changed since my youth. All I found is that those willing to fight have become old and brittle, too starved or crippled to fight off the new threat. The Nazis are no longer kicking down our doors and painting our homes a crimson red but the soviets take our food, money and slaughter those that dare to speak their mind. They wall off the west not to keep them out but to keep us in, we are deemed capitalist traitors just for wanting to survive and eat food that hasn’t been made with the broken bones of someone who works in a job they never wanted.

Every kingdom has its sunrise and sunset, no tyrant will last forever. I only pray I will be there when the sun sets so I may finally be put to rest and rejoin my friends long fallen that cry for freedom as I stand by and watch my people be treated like the dirt beneath our very feet. I wish that when that iron curtain is finally pulled back to reveal the dawn of a new age I will be washed away of my turmoil and sin.

I Dorek of the gray ranks leave this world to the next generation and only pray that they do it better than we who came before them…

September 30th 1997

I’m a man grown old, I have seen nations rise and fall, shrivel or thrive, whatever it is I have seen. I am not here to tell the younger generations how easy they’ve got it, but to never forget that there was a harder time and to never forget those that had to do things no man should ever have to do just to keep his family safe. For the past 50 years I have asked myself if I’m going to heaven or hell and only now do I realize that it doesn’t matter because I have seen the fall of two empires of pure evil fall, the scars littering my body and wrinkled skin are proof of such. When things seem dark, remind yourself that there will always be light and even if the light fails it will always get back up to stand its ground, times of the good and back rotate like the sun and the moon and even when you can’t see it, it is still there.

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Writers note: I tried to make the diary more like a diary but every time I did it turned out kind of rubbish so apologies for not being able to fix some problems with the work.

**Texts Through Time: Reflective Texts Rubric**

|  |  |  | **<4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **10+** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Writing****Form** | Diary | Insufficient evidence |  | A **simple setting, event and scenario** is revealed |  | Detailed **recount** and **reflection** is used to develop the scenario and character | Thoughts about **other characters** or the **future** are included | Explores a significant **theme** or **issue** |  |  |
| Letter | Insufficient evidence |  | A **simple setting, event and scenario** is revealed |  | Detailed **recount** and **reflection** is used to develop the scenario and character | Includes elements to reveal & build **relationship** between the characters | Both letters explore a significant **theme** or **issue** | Has a clear **message** or **purpose** to impart on the audience  |  |
| Blog | Insufficient evidence |  | A **simple setting or scenario** is revealed |  | Includes some elements of **recount** and **reflect**  | **Public audience** is addressed and engaged (eg: uses ‘you’, has an engaging intro, imagines audience’s interests or experiences) | Explores a significant **theme** or **issue with a** clear **purpose & style** (eg: share reflections, persuade, advise, build community) | Has a clear **message** or **purpose** to impart on the audience |  |
| **Writing skills** | Writer’s voice | Insufficient evidence |  |  | Accurate **tense** (past, present and/or future) is used as required | Character uses appropriate **language and register** for their character |  | **Descriptive language** is used for setting & emotion (eg: 5 senses, simile, metaphor) |  |  |
| Text Structure | Insufficient evidence |  |  | **Paragraphs** are used in all texts to separate main ideas/topics |  | All texts are structured in a **logical manner** (ie:engage audience, recount, reflect, speculate on future) |  | All three text types **work together** to develop character change, narrative and theme. |  |
| Sentence Structure | Insufficient evidence | Uses accurate **simple and compound sentences** |  | Uses **complex sentences** with appropriate **conjunctions**. | Uses **embedded subclauses** in complex sentences. |  | A **range** of sentence types are deliberately used for effect |  |  |
| Punctuation | Insufficient evidence | **Basic punctuatio**n correctly used: full stops, capital letters, question marks. | Accurate **apostrophe** use for contractions and possession. |  | Accurate use of **commas** in complex sentences. |  | **Range** of punctuation used, such as colons, semi-colons, brackets, dashes, ellipses. |  |  |
| Vocab & Spelling | Insufficient evidence | **Tier 1 vocabulary** is used and spelled correctly  | **Tier 1 verbs, adjectives and adverbs** are used and spelled correctly  |  | **Tier 2 verbs, adjectives and adverbs** are used to build description and emotion; spelled correctly | **Tier 2 abstract noun**s are used to explore character, plot and theme |  | Vocabulary is chosen for **shades of meanin**g and an **effect** on the audience |  |