

SAMPLE CHUNKS

1. This chunk would earn a "C":

Brother is cruel to Doodle. For example, he makes Doodle touch his own coffin. He is mean to remind Doodle of death. He is also ashamed of Doodle and cannot help his feelings.

This is a "C" sample because it has all the correct "pieces," but the commentary is generic and shows little digging beneath the surface.

2. This chunk would earn an "A":

Though Brother often shows love for Doodle, his cruel streak subconsciously goads him to torture his little brother. For example, after many attempts to leave Doodle behind, Brother takes him up to the barn loft and shows him his coffin, telling him, "Before I'll help you down...you're going to have to touch it" (302). He instinctively wants Doodle to know that, even from the beginning, his family has always been prepared for him to die. Even Doodle's own fear has no effect on Brother as his sense of power over one younger and less able comes to fruition.

This is a better sample because it shows deeper thought in the commentary and has some sentence variety with more complex vocabulary.