Creative Writing 12 - Assessment Rubric for Unit Final Major Characterization

Task: Your job is to write the opening to a story, putting emphasis on bringing a fully formed character into life in a relatively short period of time. You can create a character from thin air or, if you like, use somebody real. This can be somebody you know well, such as a friend or family member, or somebody you’ve admired from afar, like a celebrity or particularly inspiring teacher. Your piece should be approximately 600 words in length (that’s not as long as it sounds) but feel free to write more if you like.

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| **Criteria (or Standard)** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **Feedback/Suggestions** |
| **A mix of characterization techniques**You experiment with a few different types. While you can certainly lean more heavily on one over the others, I’d like to see a mix of physical, action/behaviour, inner thought, speech and reaction descriptions.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Personality and sensory vocabulary**I want to know your character both inside and out. The best way to do this is to draw on the words from the two handouts I gave you – personality adjectives and the five senses. Also, remember that the words alone do very little. You have to tie them to specific details to give experience their full impact. Also, do not shy away from metaphor and simile.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Story Function**Although I’m only asking you to start a story, it can still help you in the task of revealing character. How can you set the scene in an interesting way? What do you do to create conflict/tension?  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Quality and care**This goes beyond simply spelling and punctuation correction – although those are both important. It means formatting for clarity, using shorter paragraphs for uniformity of purpose and simply giving your story a title.  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**1** = emerging; **2** = developing; **3** = proficient; **4** = extending