

Student 4: High Achieved

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

91517 (3.6) Extract from student supporting evidence

Role: Mother from *Children of the Poor* by Mervyn Thompson

I see my character as a faceless victim of New Zealand society in 1904. I want to show the audience that this is a struggling family whose mother can barely keep her family from starvation. There is not an easy way out of their situation. Will anyone help us? I want the audience to take away the importance of this message. I want to portray a caring and loving family at the start and how their situation changes the dynamics of the family and my relationship with the children. What happens to my children is disappointing but not surprising. I love my children. When I can't feed them I feel desperately sad and guilty. The amount of work I do is too much for one person. In these conditions even the strongest would fall. I want to portray how broken I am with the situation, weakened in mind and spirit. When my baby dies I become distanced from my family, unable to comprehend the grief. ①

I should have been able to rely on my own mother's support but I cannot. When I hear that Big Mother sends her love I do not accept this and use a cold voice and blank face to show the distancing between us. I am a woman in a man's world, with no control over how the headmaster punishes my children. Finally I lose control of Albany and am powerless to save my son.