

91517 (3.6) - Extract from student supporting evidence**Role: Rose from *Children of the Poor* by Mervyn Thompson**

I am a 10 year old girl living in New Zealand in extreme poverty. I am the oldest of three children. As the result of our extreme poverty each of us has to resort to making money in our own way. Mother is forever working, becoming ever more stressed and broken. Albany resorts to stealing and I become a prostitute at the age of ten. I want to convey in my role as Rose that she is not a bad person or intentionally cruel to her mother or hard on her siblings. She was just unfortunate to be born into an extremely poor family. She is young and envious of others around her who have nice things and are not struggling through life. Rose becomes a prostitute so that she can have the basics she needs and also some small luxuries. This is what makes her harsh and tough. As soon as she has a name for herself as a prostitute she really has no chance for a fresh start. She never had any hope of gaining respect back. I want to portray that Rose really does care for and love her family. She is not inherently bad, she has just become tough because of her situation. I want to show that even though she is hard on Albany she truly loves her brother and wants for him not to make the same mistakes she has. I want the audience to realise how awful a situation this family is in. I want to show that the family do love each other but because of their poverty they don't express their love and Rose blames their mother for their poverty. I want the audience to realise that Rose and Albany are not bad kids but to survive they are forced to do bad things. I want the audience to see this play and ask themselves that if they were in that situation, would they do the same. ① These issues of poverty are still very relevant and happening today. The poor were exploited and treated like garbage and this is still happening in our society. This play highlights issues of child prostitution, poverty, child abuse, alcoholism and unjust treatment of the poor. I want the audience to think about the fact that we still have problems with these issues in NZ today.