The student

Year Level: 17 years old, female
Background: Iraqi/Assyrian. Came via Syria ~ 6 months previously
Language: Arabic, Assyrian
Schooling: Age equivalent schooling and literacy in Arabic

The task – Students brainstormed pirate words on the board. There was a set of pictures in colour on their sheets. Students chose to be one of the characters pictured and then wrote a first person narrative with no further support than the results of the brainstorm. This text is written 2 months later by the same student as S1 progressing towards, example 1.

The text shows that the student:

writes correctly
simple
sentences
about pictures
using
vocabulary
and structures
practised
orally

attempts
paragraphs
and topic
sentences

writes using
short
sentences/
statements;
conjunction
and references
are explicit
and repetitive,
typical of
spoken mode

writes a text
focusing more
on meaning
than
grammatical
accuracy

I was a tiger pirate. I had a lot of treasure and money. I lived with my parents in the forest. There were a lot of tigers around me. But I wasn’t in love with any of them.

One day my father’s friend wanted to marry me. His name was Tiger. My father was agree for that. But I wasn’t in love with him. So I decided to leave my family and joined to the group of pirates. I thought maybe I could find a prince for me and that would be interested.

When I joined to the pirates that was really bad. Because they were just stealing and killing people. Some times they kidnapped people and stole their ships or valuable. The captain of pirates was a strange lizzard. Because he had patch on his eye and there was peg in his foot. There was a hook in his left hand and on his right hand was artship. The lizzard was so evil to kill people. The important things for him was to cut off head and kidnap people. No one could say no for them. They just did what he said.

The pirate life was so interested for them. Because they could take everything they wanted and nobody could say any thing for them. But my work was just cooking food for them and cleaning. They were hungry.
This text is an example of a student at Stage S1 Standard. She can write for a range of basic classroom and personal purposes, here writing an imaginative text. Her basic sentences and short texts are based on well-practised spoken English and familiar contexts. She writes with varying grammatical accuracy, expressing himself using familiar vocabulary and modelled structures and features. She orders and sequences sentences about familiar topics into coherent texts, incorporating paragraphs. She corrects some errors relating to targeted grammatical items.