

### Assisted Learning Secondary

#### RUNNER-UP

**Tom Li, 15**

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North Parramatta, NSW

#### Learning Curve

With the brumbies running free,  
The warrior rides his steed in a far off place...

The gentle warrior lies silent,  
Energated by his cloud-filled guilt.  
Lost in his dreams and longed-for rest.

However...

Bothersome beeping blares into his ears,  
Rising up from the dreams with no cheer,  
The warrior silences the persistent noise  
And begins his dreary morning.  
Cleaned, motivated, brave

The warrior trudges on his 'adventure'  
Powering through hours of teaching and talking.  
Though he was like a weeping willow tree,  
The warrior had the will and listened on  
He did it all: Maths, History, Science...

Finally his freedom came.  
His steed ready, awaits on the rugged, familiar path.

Embracing his freedom  
The warrior leans back and sleeps  
With the brumbies running free.

#### **Judge Comment:**

A delightfully clever account of the protagonist's escape from the grind of everyday life into the excitement and action of fantasy. Well done!