Assignment 3, my own story:

It’s still early in the morning when I grab my phone, 5:30 in the morning it says. No messages yet. I quickly get out of my bed and start getting ready for today. It was an important day today; I’ve been working towards today with my whole carrousel team. You might wonder, carrousel? Merry-go-round? No, that’s the wrong thing. Let me start by giving you a short explanation. I go to the stables a couple of times a week, I train with horses and got eventually selected for my stables carrousel team. This is where you ride together with 15 other equestrians through a course. You perform certain figures while crossing and riding closely past each other. It is a work of art when you look at us from of the tribune. Today was the day of the national championships and after months of training our team was allowed to participate. To continue, back to today. After getting ready and putting all the requirements I had to bring together, we got in the car and got to the stables. It was almost 6 AM and we are running late, we’re supposed to leave the stables at 7 AM to be on time.

When we arrive, we luckily see that we’re not the only ones that are running late, no one here really is a morning person. I quickly check my horse to see if his hair is still tied up in the knots I made yesterday. Everything looks completely fine so I grab his saddle, bridle and anything else he might need. Right when I put his blanket on him for the trip, I hear the trailer arriving. Next, we all bring the horses and line them up in the trailer, I’ll see mine again when we arrive at championships. One of my friends joins me in the car and we drive out a bit in front of the trailer. Suddenly we notice a Starbucks at one of the gas stations we pass and decide that it’s time for our morning coffee.

We arrive at 10 AM and we’ve only been there for about half an hour when the trailer arrives as well. We had just enough time to sign in and get everything ready before the horses arrived. I quickly notice mine and as soon as it’s my turn, I take him out of the trailer to his temporary stable. I quickly get to work, I take off his blanket, fix the knots that we’re loosened, and brush his fur to make sure he glows. Then I take care of his hooves, everything looks perfect when I’m finished. Before putting his saddle on, I quickly check on my friend and my other teammates, you can see that everyone is a little bit nervous. When I’m back at my horse I see my dad already putting the saddle on, he used to ride horses too when he was younger so he really enjoys days like these. While my dad is working on the saddle, I quickly go to change in my uniform. Next I have to pick up my cap, which is the helmet and my gloves, our whole team has the same uniform.

Everyone is ready and gathers at the drive-in box, we all mount our horses and make sure they are active before it’s our turn to perform. While we’re riding in the drive-in box, we also give the horses time to get used to the environment. This box looks quite good, it’s huge and has multiple openings to the outside. There are plants in every corner and lights that make sure the whole box would be usable even if it were dark. When we’re finished, we all gather in the middle of the box and our coach gives us a little pep talk. Our team’s names reverberate through the sound boxes and that's how we start our performance.

At the end of our performance everyone is laughing, we did amazing and our coach can’t stop telling us how proud she is. We ride our horses back to the stables to feed and water them, they gladly take the food with some extra apples. When we’re finished taking care of our horses, we meet shortly with our coach. We cover topics regarding our performance, yet she again mentions how proud she is. Next most of the group splits up to have lunch, me and my friends go get some pancakes and we only talk about the past hour. Before we even really know it, it’s time to go to the awards ceremony. We see our coach run across the area to get our team together. I quickly go to grab my uniform and run to the ceremony. Once arrived our team gathers on the left side and gets ready for the results. Everyone is nervous, which is expectable, these are the national championships! After the introduction and a little thank you, they finally start. “Starting with the team ending on the last spot...”, not us. Thankfully. We’re in the fourth place and still haven’t been called up. We’re all holding hands and holding our breath. Third place... Second place... As the very last team, we get called up on the stage. Unexpectedly a first place! No way! The whole team cheers as we walk up. I just couldn’t believe it, after all our hard work and dedication, we truly earned the first place. We’re the champions in the Netherlands.