

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Jan Kuzebauch

Title: Severe Situation of Children in 19th Century Britain and its Depiction in the Selected Novels...

Length: 40

Text Length: 36

<i>Assessment Criteria</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the examined issue. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
2. The thesis shows the author's appropriate knowledge of the subject matter through the background/review of literature. The author presents information from a variety of quality electronic and print sources. Sources are relevant, balanced and include critical readings relating to the thesis or problem. Primary sources are included (if appropriate).	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The thesis is ambitious as it sets out to discuss three Victorian novels from a social historical point of view. The student is judicious in the selection of passages from the novels, and deals well with them. However, I was dismayed to see the use of Spark Notes. More generally, the student makes little or no attempt to deal with social histories of the nineteenth century.
3. The author carefully analyzed the information collected and drew appropriate and inventive conclusions supported by evidence. Ideas are richly supported with accurate details that develop the main point. The author's voice is evident.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See pt 6 below.
5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy to follow. Transitions, summaries and conclusions exist as appropriate. The	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The student has structured his material in an interesting and illuminating way, dwelling at length on social conditions, and using this information to elucidate selected episodes and junctures of the

author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.		novels concerned. I thought this was done excellently throughout. On a less important note, I was disappointed by the weak conclusions of both chapters 1 and 2.
7. The language use is precise. The student makes proficient use of language in a way that is appropriate for the discipline and/or genre in which the student is writing.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	It is dismaying to read a text that contains many simple grammar mistakes and awkward expressions throughout.
8. The thesis meets the general requirements (formatting, chapters, length, division into sections, etc.). References are cited properly within the text and a complete reference list is provided.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	In-text references are formatted incorrectly throughout. The References list is also incorrectly formatted. I propose that the examining board considers whether a work should be passed if it does not meet these requirements.

Final Comments & Questions

This is an interesting and ambitious thesis, which has many excellent moments of insight. The student has done well with a wide range of material. However, I do have several reservations (expressed above). I would have otherwise recommended a grade of 1, but I propose to drop this by one grade because of these problems. Therefore I recommend a grade of **2 (velmi dobře)**.

In addition to the points above, I would like to hear the student's response to the following issue. At several points in the text, the student considers at length whether the given writer derived his or her fiction from autobiography. I do not see the relevance of the question. Surely the works can be considered as social commentary regardless of whether they were completely invented or not. Arguably Dickens's most effective fiction – *A Christmas Carol* – had no roots in the author's own family background or upbringing. Could the student explain the relevance of this material to the topic under consideration?

Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

Date: 10 May 2015

Signature:

