

Graduate Thesis Assessment Rubric (Literature, Cultural Studies)
 Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: *Martin Tatíček*

Title: The Picture of the World in Raymond Carver's Work

Length: 51

Text Length 55

<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	I wish there was more of a specific argument about Carver's work.
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 author has done a lot of research and knows much. But there are problems organizing this information.
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	There are many insightful moments in the thesis but there are long passages of summary, especially the recounting of each story in each collection that is not very useful.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	There is not much simplistic here but there are some over complicated moments in the thesis and the issue of the editor Gordon Lish seems overly emotional.
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 author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	There are many problems in the text with titles, misspellings, and the Works Cited is not even close to being correct.

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	The style wavers from overly formal to overly conversational.
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	It will be up to the opponent to decide if we can pass the thesis in this condition.

Final Comments & Questions

The author has done much work and knows much about his subject. I found the Carver biography, the Hemingway/Chekov chapters, and recounting of the stories mostly summary. There are many interesting themes (obsessions Carver called them) such as *voyeurism* that I think could have been explored more fully. In the exploration of theme and analysis the authors should weave his analysis within many stories at the same time; this will prevent the author from falling into mere summary. I am also concerned about the depiction of Gordon Lish which seems overly emotional to me. He is set up as a kind of villain of the thesis and I am not convinced by the author's use of sources that Lish deserves this position. For instance isn't Lish's editing in keeping with Carver's own appreciation of Hemingway's Iceberg Principle? Lish's editing calls for a greater exploration of the phenomenon that is minimalism which asks for the reader's greater participation. And frankly, Lish made Carver famous. If they had a falling out in later years, it seems unfair to imply that Carver would have been an even better writer without him. How could we ever really know this? I very much enjoyed the notion that Carver is a postmodernist and I wish this kind of criticism could have been more fully explored in the text of the stories.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date: 20.08.2012

Signature:

