

## Graduate Thesis Assessment Rubric (Literature)

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: 55pp

Text Length: 51pp

<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the problem. It places the problem in context. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good <b>Acceptable</b> Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The introduction and conclusion raise the issue of Carver position as a poet (p. 48: 'The purpose of this thesis was to answer the following questions: Why Carver considered himself to be predominantly a poet?'). The bizarre thing is that the student does not discuss the poetry in detail or at length.
2. The main part of the thesis exhibits a sustained, consistent level of analysis appropriate to the linguistic, rhetorical and thematic aspects of the literary work. The author employs appropriate direct references (in the form of citation) to the primary work and to secondary sources.	<b>Outstanding</b> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
3. The thesis shows critical and analytical thinking about the area of study and the author's expertise in this area.	<b>Outstanding</b> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
4. 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 demonstrates high quality writing skills and uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable <b>Somewhat deficient</b> Very deficient	The writing and critical thinking displayed in this thesis are of a very high level; this makes it all the harder to understand <del>the</del> the carelessness in grammar and spelling throughout. Often this leads to confusion about the meaning (viz., the frequent use of the word 'replica' to mean perhaps 'reply'); at other times proper names are misspelled (Tess Gallagher, John Gardner). (One amusing typo: 'a happy marriage of a meddle-aged couple', p. 30.) Also, in discussing the stories of Anton Chekhov, the author consulted Czech translation, when English translations are available (and then misleadingly translated titles of stories

		from the Czech titles into English). Here is a example of this kind of carelessness: 'So, Lish help consisted in the fact Carver become famous and Gordon Lish maybe accelerate it' (p. 23).
5. 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 <b>Somewhat deficient</b> Very deficient	In the reference list, articles are italicised when they should be placed within inverted commas.

Final Comments & Questions

As I remarked above, the writing and critical analysis in the thesis are at a high level. The student covered not only Carver's work, but also investigated his major influences and drew precise lines of connection with his subject. Occasionally, the discussion of the stories falls short of analysis, but these are isolated moments. Naturally, then I would like to award the thesis a grade of "excellent", but given the carelessness of execution outlined above, I propose that this is downgraded to 2 (**velmi dobře**).

Supervisor/Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

Date: 20 July 2012

Signature:

