

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Tereza Němcová
 Title: Ian McEwan's Later Fiction
 Length: 35
 Text Length: 30

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
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	The intro lacks an argument.
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	
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	The thesis is well informed and researched and reports many interesting observations, but the author never really identifies her subject.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Yes, there are many rather nuanced observations that are never really applied to totalizing argument.
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	Here the author articulates some general themes of the work "inevitability and anticipation" but seems to have forgotten the lion's share of the work she did in the previous chapters.
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	While the author is a strong and controlled writer, the organizational principles of the thesis are somewhat mysterious.

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 language is the highlight of the thesis.
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	The references page doesn't follow a regular format and the quotations throughout the thesis are not long enough to merit long quotation format. Paragraphs should not have spaces between them.

Final Comments & Questions

The author is to be congratulated on the depth of her research as well as her keen eye for observation. On the sentence level, the thesis is quite impressive, but on the macro level the thesis appears haphazard and lost. Why did the author choose these three texts? Because they are the most recent? As recent fictions, is there a way you can help us understand them as opposed to the early fiction? Have McEwan's aims or techniques altered in some way from earlier work? Why did the author choose to examine the text out of chronological order? Why does the author start with *Atonement* instead of *Enduring Love*? It seems chronology would be the most logical way to organize text label with the temporal marker "Recent". While the author states that McEwan writes about "taboo" subject matter, it seem to me that all three of these books have sex in common; there is in each text an interplay of scientific and narrative knowledge and often the "inevitable but anticipated" element in the fiction is McEwan's keen interest in sex and the various cultural, scientific, and aesthetic ways we come to terms with this fundamental yet vexing element of our humanity. In *Enduring Love*, there is an explicit debate about "narrative" knowledge verses "scientific" knowledge and this might have been one more common theme that all books share, as McEwan the storyteller poses scientific questions to readers who usually judge characters in the limited terms of Newtonian physics and Freudian psychology. Perhaps McEwan's interest in evolutionary biology as well as postmodern story convention is moving us toward a greater understanding of character, one that more accurately reflects the complicated interplay of freewill and determinism that define who we are. The problems with paragraphing, quotations, and references add to the sense that the thesis isn't as well thought out as it could have been.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date: 19.08.2013

Signature:

