

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

Thesis Author: *Alžběta Balounová*

Title: Teachers of Harry Potter, Their Teaching Styles and Attitudes to Students

Length: 61

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 problem. It places the problem in context. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The intro is too brief for me and does not really set up an argument. The intro and the thesis are too descriptive in nature.
2. Literature review is comprehensive and complete. It synthesizes a variety of sources and provides context for the research. It shows the author's understanding of the most relevant literature on the subject matter.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	There are more primary texts than secondary ones. The research is not broad enough.
3. The methodology chapter provides clear and thorough description of the research methodology. It discusses why and what methods were chosen for research. The research methodology is appropriate for the identified research questions.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Again, there are not enough sources to push the thesis into a synthesis. Mostly the diploma categorizes the primary text by Kalhous and Obst's teaching styles.
4. The results/data are analyzed and interpreted effectively. The chapter ties the theory with the findings. It addresses the applications and implications of the research. It discusses strengths, weaknesses, and limitations of the research.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	This is all very interesting in explication the snowglobe reality of Harry Potter, but I am unclear how to apply it to the real world.
5. The thesis shows critical and analytical thinking about the area of study and the author's expertise in this area.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Again, the writing is clear and logical, it is just more descriptive than argumentative.
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	The author is an excellent writer.

author demonstrates high quality writing skills and uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Very deficient	
7. 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 lack of sources is a big problem with the thesis.

Final Comments & Questions

The author is to be congratulated on her fine skill as a writer and her ability to depict the snow globe reality of J.K. Rowling's magical world. I wish perhaps the author were able to uncover even more about Rowling's own teaching career as that might be on way to connecting the fictional world with the actual world of pedagogy. As it stands now, this diploma work is a sort of vast and intricate horoscope in which the reader may find what type of teacher he resembles, be it Binns, or and Snape, or more likely Dumbledore, but also like a horoscope the real world application is nebulous at best. I feel the work should be more argumentative and the conclusion clearly demonstrates the author has a hard time making this project really useful for teachers. Recently Introduction to Philosophy textbooks have discarded the classic texts of Plato and Descartes in favor of using *The Simpsons* or *The Matrix* to fully explore issue of epistemology, ontology, and metaphysics. I wonder if it is possible to use the world of Harry Potter is such a way, but the inherent practicality of methodology will make it something of a challenge. Also, does the author examine the idea that popular teachers are not always good teachers and vice versa? Again, I must restate the lack of secondary sources is a big problem in this thesis no matter how fine the writing is, and more of them would have helped to push the author into a real world application.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date: 20.05.2013

Signature: 