

## Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Klára Tříkačová

Title: **SCHWARTZ'S SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK: Origins, Horror Elements & Controversy**

Length: 29

Text Length: 25

<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	While the author is obviously well familiar with the primary text itself as well as its reception, and drew on a sufficient number of sources, most of these are purely informative and lack critical academic treatment of the subject.
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	Same as stated above, the thesis too, presents rather than analyses the controversial issues surrounding Schwartz' notorious book.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The thesis does contain descriptive sections and passages, but these are not simplistic and partly justifiable, since the discussed text dates back to the 1980s and is less known here than in the US.
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	The conclusion in itself is fine, just reflects the shortcomings of the previous sections.
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	

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	
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	

### Final Comments & Questions

The first thing to be appreciated about this thesis is the author's enthusiasm for the chosen topic and her effort to complement this by background research, which she carried largely on her own. Though the discussed title thematically belongs to the genre of children's literature, its suitability for this audience has been repeatedly challenged in its country of origin. The author did a good job in providing a survey of the controversy surrounding this book as well as outlining the theory and tropes of the horror genre in general and suggesting a comparison with a similar title by M. Mills. Unfortunately, partly due to the scarce communication with the tutor during the writing process and partly due to the nature of the presented text, the thesis comes a step short of proper analysis based on academic sources and there is still a potential for further elaboration of the topic. Apart from the major controversy concerning the horror elements, I appreciate the mentioning (p. 21) of the potentially stereotypical racial controversies depicted in the stories, which fit well with the current orientation of our study program. A further area of exploration related to this issue appears to be a reflection on the book's reception in the Czech Republic. Since the title has been published in Czech relatively late (Argo, 2019) it would be interesting to look at the cross-cultural context of the stories, which is briefly mentioned e.g. in <https://www.iliteratura.cz/clanek/42327-schwartz-alvin-nocni-mury-z-temnot> and could serve as a topic for the discussion at the oral defense too. As a whole, it is in, my view, a good bachelor work with a potential for the grade to be improved in case of an exceptionally convincing defense.

Reviewer: Magdaléna Potočňáková, Ph.D.

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Signature: