

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

Thesis Author: Ivana Parikrupová
 Title: BIBLIOTHERAPEUTIC ELEMENTS IN ANNE FINE'S BOOKS ABOUT
 CHILDREN FROM DIVORCED FAMILIES
 Length: 55pp
 Text Length: 50pp

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
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	
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.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	<p>The central flaw of the thesis is its structure: what the student refers to as "theoretical background" is in fact not theory at all, but a sociological survey of the effects of divorce on children. This bears almost no relation to the topic of Anne Fine's work.</p> <p>In place of this, it would have been preferable to get a more detailed account of the theoretical basis of bibliotherapy, so that when the student comes to consider Fine we would have a better framework for assessing this material.</p> <p>The analysis of Fine and the possible therapeutic effects of her books is weak, and based on no research that I can see. On p. 20, the student writes "The question to be raised is whether Anne Fine's books offer suitable and effective texts that provide particular manifestation of impacts of divorce and meets previously described bibliotherapeutic criteria of healing process." This is a fair ambition for such a thesis, but the methodology for answering this question has to be more persuasive. For instance on p. 27 the student writes: "The story of Kitty in <i>Google-Eyes</i> is perfect for those who feel abandoned, loose attachment with</p>

		<p>both parents, moreover, struggle with a great anger. The novel facilitates building community among pupils as the story is set up as a dialog between two classmates. Kitty tries to lighten and cheer up her girlfriend Helly who find herself in a very alike situation as Kitty. The book sets an example of developing coping skills.”</p> <p>The only statement the student is justified in making is that the story of Kitty <i>might</i> be perfect in such situations. What we require is empirical proof to back up such claims. The student elsewhere says this is lacking in the Czech Republic, which makes us wonder if the student should not have carried out such research for the thesis, or not written the thesis at all.</p>
3. The thesis shows critical and analytical thinking about the area of study and the author's expertise in this area.	<p>Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient</p>	
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.	<p>Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient</p>	<p>The thesis is littered with errors – in grammar and spelling – and raises the issue of adequate copy-editing of theses. Is this the responsibility of the thesis supervisor, who among other responsibilities will have six or seven other theses to see to submission? Or is it the responsibility of the student? In either case, it is an issue that might be raised at the beginning of supervision of theses.</p>
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.	<p>Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient</p>	

Final Comments & Questions

I look forward to the hearing the student's defence of the work and why, given these reservations, the thesis should be passed in its present state.

Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

Date: 20 May 2013

Signature:

