

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Markéta Reguli

Title: Landscape in Thomas Hardy's *Return of the Native*

Length: 36

Text Length: 33

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	
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	
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
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	
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,	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

grammar, and punctuation.		
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	Although written in a clear style, there are errors of phrasing throughout.
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	Punctuation around in-text references is incorrect throughout.

Final Comments & Questions

This is an excellent thesis and I have no hesitation in recommending a grade of **1 (výborně)**. It was a pleasure to see how the student engaged with various aspects of Hardy's treatment of landscape, including festivals and traditions, and not only of the direct descriptions. The student is right when she writes that of all Hardy's novels, *Return of the Native* is the one where the landscape plays the most prominent role. Occasionally it even seems to overshadow the human drama that unfolds: often the characters seem to be merely parts of that landscape, with little agency of their own, as when one of them is described thus: "the solitude exhaled from the heath was concentrated in this face that had risen from it." One reservation: I don't think that it was helpful to devote a section to each character's relationship with the landscape – it would have been better to synthesize this material and give it another structure. Nevertheless, this is a quibble and should not cast a shadow on what is a very good piece of work.

Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

Date: 15 August 2017

Signature:

