

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Lenka Šlechtová

Title: Humor in *The Canterbury Tales*

Length: 38pp

Text Length: 36pp

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	This is too brief and does not outline the argument of the thesis in sufficient detail. It trails off.
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	The student writes that she chose not to deal with the original text of <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> in order to take into account the potential reader, and I understand that the decision was taken in consultation with the supervisor. I can understand the difficulty of the original text for a student at her level, but why not use the translation as an aide only, providing both original and translation in her text? Also, it is unclear why the student deals with film adaptations in the final chapter of the thesis. How does it contribute to the argument? Also, there is little engagement with secondary material, and there are no critical readings relating to the argument.
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	Unfortunately there is little critical analysis in the thesis. The presence of humor in various passages is remarked upon, and the student then moves to the next.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The beginning of ch. 2 provides an overview of Chaucer's life that bears no relation to the argument of the thesis. It continues with a basic account of Chaucer's times. Again, there is no connection to the argument. The entire chapter could have been profitably deleted. Throughout the thesis, there is too much quotation; moreover the quotes are often left uncommented.

		The thesis is already quite short (just 2000 characters over the minimum length). If these quotes were removed (which are for the most part unintegrated in the argument) the thesis would be well under the minimum length. On pp. 24–30 we find much quotation interspersed with only plot summary. Such an approach is characteristic. There are some moments of good critical synthesis, for instance, on p. 16.
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, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See other points here.
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 text has many errors of grammar and style.
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. Titles of books are frequently not italicized. Text is arranged in irregularly shaped paragraphs.

Final Comments & Questions

It is an ambitious undertaking for a BA student to write about *The Canterbury Tales*. Alas, the execution of the thesis leaves much to be desired as is apparent from the points above, and I have difficulty at this stage seeing how it can be passed. If the student concentrates on the matters raised here, I am confident that she will be able to pass the next time.

Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

Date: 15 May 2017

Signature: