

## Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Jan Maglia

Title: Jonathan Swift: Human Nature in Gulliver's Voyage to Houyhnhnms

Length: 31

Text Length: 29

| <b>Assessment Criteria</b>   | <b>Scale</b>  | <b>Comments</b>  |
|--|---|--|
| 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<br>Very good<br><b>Acceptable</b><br>Somewhat deficient<br>Very deficient | The Introduction seems to foreshadow the main problem of the whole thesis, it does not lack enthusiasm and ideas, it is depth and grounding what is missing. |
| 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<br>Very good<br><b>Acceptable</b><br>Somewhat deficient<br>Very deficient | There could have been more sources used to support the presented arguments.  |
| 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<br>Very good<br><b>Acceptable</b><br>Somewhat deficient<br>Very deficient | While the author's voice is undoubtedly evident, it does not always sound convincing enough, remaining more speculative than analytical.                     |
| 4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.  | Outstanding<br><b>Very good</b><br>Acceptable<br>Somewhat deficient<br>Very deficient |  |
| 5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.  | Outstanding<br>Very good<br><b>Acceptable</b><br>Somewhat deficient<br>Very deficient | There does not seem to be much progress from the initial stage of the research to the final one.   |
| 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<br>Very good<br><b>Acceptable</b><br>Somewhat deficient<br>Very deficient | The text reads well and undoubtedly may be inspiring for an uninitiated reader familiar only with the popular version of Gulliver's Travels.                 |



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| 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<br>Very good<br><b>Acceptable</b><br>Somewhat deficient<br>Very deficient | In accordance with the overall essayistic style of the text, the language too is not overtly academic, getting by with essential critical terminology.    |
| 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<br>Very good<br><b>Acceptable</b><br>Somewhat deficient<br>Very deficient | Among the stated criteria, sticking to the minimal acceptable length seems the crucial drawback of the theses, the same applies to the number of sources. |

#### Final Comments & Questions

The topic of the thesis seemed a suitable choice for the author, especially considering his (obvious) thoughtful nature, his own experience with horses and last but not least his studying History as a minor. Initially, it really seemed that the fourth book of *Gulliver's Travels* itself will present enough material for analysis and interpretation within the scope of an undergraduate work.

Unfortunately, much of the thesis potential remained, perhaps due to an unfortunate timing of its submission, unfulfilled. It does not lack originality of views, the very choice of Jonathan Swift, as an author much less popular with students than 19<sup>th</sup> century writers, is to be appreciated too. In its present form, it could perhaps succeed as a popularizing, thought provoking essayistic piece but as an academic work, it would profit from more research and contextualization. In conclusion, grade 3 seems adequate evaluation.

Supervisor: Magdaléna Potočňáková, Ph.D.

Date: 3.9.2018

Signature:

