

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric
 Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Jif Jindra
 Title: Reading Kazuo Ishiguro as an International Author
 Length: 39
 Text Length: 33

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
1. 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	
2. 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	
3. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
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 uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
5. 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	
6. The thesis meets the general requirements (formatting, chapters, length, division into sections, etc.). References are cited properly within	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

the text and a complete reference list is provided.

Final Comments & Questions

I admire many aspects of this thesis, but will begin with its weaker aspects. Perhaps the greatest problem is the large amount of plot summary. Sometimes this continues for several paragraphs, and although the student does attempt to critically synthesize the stories, he does not always succeed in drawing such passages into the main line of the argument. An example of this can be found at the end of the first paragraph on p. 16. This is proceeded by summary of *The Buried Giant*; then, at the end of p. 15, the student tries to generalize, but cannot effectively connect this to the main argument of the thesis (about the transformation of Ishiguro into an international writer). This is asserted in the last sentence, but it does not emerge as a conclusion of the preceding sentences; rather, it feels tacked on. It is indeed a challenge to explain how a novel about post-Roman Britain can be conceived as broadening the author's international reach – surely the novel locates him rather within a British context – and so the student's failure at this point is understandable.

In contrast, there are many strengths here. First, the student draws upon an impressive range of secondary sources. Second, he has a detailed grasp of an extensive and demanding literary oeuvre. Third, his characterizations of the different phases of the author's work are precise even as they propel the argument of the thesis. Fourth, the chapter on the award of the Nobel Prize provides an excellent culmination to the thesis.

For these reasons, I propose a grade of 1 or 2, výborně or velmi dobře, and look forward to the student's defence.

Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.
 Date: 23 August 2022
 Signature: