

Filozofická  
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Jihočeská univerzita  
v Českých Budějovicích  
University of South Bohemia  
in České Budějovice

## POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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Studijní obor: Anglický jazyk a literatura (dvouoborové studium)

Název práce: **Chaos, Madness and their Connection to the Setting in Selected Stories of Edgar**

**Allan Poe**

Autorka práce: **Petra Feketová**

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **PhDr. Mariana Machová, Ph.D.**

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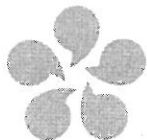
### Stručná charakteristika práce

The author examines the relationship of the two major themes of Poe's stories, chaos and madness, to the settings of the stories. In the first chapter, she sums up the theoretical grounds of Poe's work, taking as the main source his essay "The Philosophy of Composition". She points out Poe's stress on the effect of the work of art, and the rational methods used to create a desired effect in the reader. She argues that in his stories he intentionally creates an interplay between the atmosphere of the setting and the disturbed minds of the characters/narrators to affect the reader more powerfully. The core of the thesis is a detailed close-reading of four stories, in which the author shows the ways Poe works with the relationship between the setting and the minds of the characters.

### Celkové zhodnocení

The thesis is well structured, the main argument is clearly stated and very relevant to Poe's method. I enjoyed the close-reading of the stories very much: even though all of the stories are among the most famous texts by Poe, Petra has managed to offer a fresh and inspired reading, with close attention to the text and a keen eye for detail. She traces connections between the two most important aspects of Poe's stories – the troubled human psyche and the impressive setting – not only on the most obvious level (e.g. the falling house parallel to the crumbling mind of Roderick Usher), but also in places where it is less conspicuous, yet clearly present and effective (e.g. the vaults in "The Cask of Amontillado" and the twisted mind of Montresor). She makes some good points about the use of the carnival in "The Mask of the Red Death" and "The Cask of Amontillado" (it would be possible to mention other stories where carnival is used, although carnival itself is not the main topic of this thesis). While Petra's readings are her own, they are also supported by relevant secondary sources, which she works organically in her text, using them in a natural and helpful way.

The thesis was carefully consulted with me during the process of writing and Petra was always able to respond to my comments and suggestions in a creative and independent way. Overall, the thesis fulfills all the requirements and I am happy to recommend it for defense.



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Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **výborně**

1. 6. 2016

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Datum

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Podpis