



POSUDEK VEDOUcíHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk a literatura (dvouoborové studium)**

Název práce: **Symbolism in *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger**

Autor/-ka práce: **Jana Šojdelová**

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **Richard Stock, Ph.D.**

Stručná charakteristika práce

Jana Sojdelova's BA thesis focuses on *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger and further proposes an in-depth study of the symbolism in the novel. Apart from a useful Introduction and Conclusion, Jana's thesis is divided into three parts. The first main part establishes the "central metaphor" of the novel, while the second main part addresses secondary, but still very important, symbols in the novel. The third main part brings the symbolic analysis to bear on the main story line of the novel, that of Holden's emotional decline and the ambivalent ending.

Celkové zhodnocení

Although a "symbolic analysis" can often be superficial, in this thesis Jana manages to use method of looking at symbols in a literary text to produce deep and useful conclusions about the text.

A good example is the first main section, where she proposes to identify and analyze the "central metaphor" of "the catcher in the rye", which at first glance appears to be a rather obvious facet of the novel. Jana shows through a careful analysis not only that the catcher metaphor is indeed central in ways that a reader can often miss, but also that the metaphor can produce interesting and culturally-relevant readings. A great example is her inclusion of the analysis of the Robert Burns poem, one of the origins of this metaphor in the novel (but only one). Parts like this make Jana's thesis the type of text that one would want to use in teaching or further research, to underline or highlight and keep on the shelf, and I believe that this goes beyond what one normally expects of a BA thesis.

Jana's use of secondary sources is somewhat limited, and the sources used are perhaps not to the highest standards, but since secondary sources needed to be announced very far in advance, this cannot really be a criticism. Where used, secondary sources are used well and integrated into the writing effectively. More importantly, the goal of this thesis is not so much to fit in with an established field of top-level academic research, since this does not really exist for *The*



Catcher in the Rye, but rather to perform a thorough and insightful close reading of the text. In this sense, the limited use of secondary sources is perhaps appropriate, and at least acceptable.

This is especially the case since one of the joys of reading Jana's thesis is her mastery of the novel itself. She is able to make connections between the smallest bits of mentions of items spread far across the text in many places throughout the thesis. These references are gems of analysis produced by hard work and repeated consideration of the research project over a long period of time.

There are some typos and formatting errors throughout the text, but these are not extreme, and more importantly the writing is fluid and impressively academic. All of this motivates me to give Jana the highest grade possible for the BA thesis and convinces me that her thesis goes beyond the requirements for such a task.

Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: výborně

16. 6. 2014

Datum

Podpis