

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Adéla Sedláčková
Název bakalářské práce: The Portrayal of Gardens in British Children's Fiction
Vedoucí bakalářské práce: PhDr. Alice Sukdolová, Ph.D.
Oponentka bakalářské práce: Mgr. Renata Janktová, M.A., Ph.D.

I. Cíl práce a jeho naplnění:

1. Cíl práce byl stanoven a naplněn v souladu s tématem
- ~~2. Cíl práce byl naplněn s drobnými nedostatky~~
- ~~3. Cíl práce byl adekvátní, ale jen částečně naplněný~~
- ~~4. Stanovený cíl nebyl naplněn~~

II. Struktura práce:

1. Logická, jasná a přehledná
- ~~2. Přiměřená~~
- ~~3. Uspokojivá~~
- ~~4. Nevhodná~~

III. Práce s literaturou:

1. Výborná: zvoleny a použity vhodné prameny v patřičném rozsahu
- ~~2. Velmi dobrá práce s adekvátními prameny v patřičném rozsahu~~
- ~~3. Průměrná práce s literaturou~~
- ~~4. Slabá, chybná nebo nedostačující~~

IV. Formální stránka:

1. Odpovídá všem stanoveným požadavkům
- ~~2. Obsahuje drobné formální chyby~~
- ~~3. Nesplňuje některé zásadní požadavky~~
- ~~4. Nesplňuje většinu stanovených požadavků~~

VI. Jazyková úroveň práce:

1. Výborná
- ~~2. Velmi dobrá~~
- ~~3. Dobrá~~
- ~~4. Podprůměrná~~

VII. Náročnost zpracování tématu:

1. Velmi vysoká
- ~~2. Vysoká~~
- ~~3. Střední~~
- ~~4. Nízká~~

Vyjádření vedoucí bakalářské práce:

In her bachelor thesis, Adela Sedláčková decided to focus on the portrayal of gardens in children's literature, namely through the interpretational analysis of F. H. Burnett's children's fiction *The Secret Garden*. The introductory part summarizes the overview of the history of British literature written for children, using relevant secondary sources (Carpenter, Rován, Hunt). The main aim of the introduction is to centre the attention to the so-called Golden Age of children's literature in which *The Secret Garden* was published and gained popularity. At this point, the thesis seeks to determine the lasting influence of children's literature, relating it to the category of the fantasy genre in contemporary literature.

Secondly, the thesis defines the category of space that will be the thesis' main focus, i.e. the outside space of the garden and its function within the specific literary work. In this theoretical approach, Bachelard's study of *The Poetics of Space* is mentioned and considered in the dichotomy of the inner and outer spaces as based on the phenomenology of space in relation to human consciousness. Here the foremost characteristics of the thesis become involved in the way the author incorporates the theoretical approach in the novel's interpretation. Adela is always able to see the inner motivation of characters who reflect on their mental space and their ability to transform the space of the garden with their own creative impact. The next chapter deals with the symbolic level of space representations. There the allegorical images of Oscar Wilde's *Selfish Giant* are compared with F. H. Burnett's concept of the space of *The Secret Garden*. Chapter five enlists the Victorian, Romantic and Gothic elements that are present in Burnett's piece of children's fiction. As a result of the research, Romantic elements of the garden space and the surrounding landscape and romanticized ideals are discovered.

The core of the thesis lies in the interpretation of *The Secret Garden* and the subsequent analysis of the main motifs and themes. In this part, the thesis offers a detailed examination of the primary source from which numerous passages are quoted adequately. The demonstration of the healing potential of the garden, the significance of the positive mindset and hope are established as the main goals of the author of *The Secret Garden*. According to the author of the thesis, the theme of loneliness and the role of parental figures create another significant aspect of the work. Further on, the idealization of the English countryside is questioned as the essential value of *The Secret Garden*. Finally, the motif of magic and its parallel with a religious approach has been discussed. In conclusion, social as well as political references to the era of the British colonial power of the previous centuries create an original insight into the literary context of children's literature.

Práce splňuje nejen základní požadavky kladené na tento typ prací, a proto ji doporučuji k ústní obhajobě.

Navrhovaná známka: výborně

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. How would you characterize the presence of "magic" in *The Secret Garden*?
2. Are there any other works in children's literature that can be analysed through the perspective of Bachelard's approach to space?
3. What is the most significant aspect of change in the *Secret Garden*? Is it the transformation of space, or a development and rebirth of characters?

Datum: 9. 5. 2023

Podpis vedoucí bakalářské práce:

