

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Iva Le

Název bakalářské práce: Characters from Greek Mythology in Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series*

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: Mgr. Renata Janktová, MA, PhD.

Oponentka bakalářské práce: PhDr. Kamila Vránková, PhD.

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 vedoucího bakalářské práce:

Iva Le presents a thesis focused on a set of texts that she enjoyed reading as a teenager and is well familiar with. Like reportedly numerous other readers, she experienced Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson novels as "a gateway to Greek mythology" that offered both education and

entertainment tailored for teenage readers. Riordan's resurrection and adaptation of the world of classical gods and creatures is the study focus of the thesis. The theoretical part introduces the genre of fantasy and, most importantly, finds mythology, or mythologies, at the heart of the genre. The reason is the cosmological function of myth, dwelling, in simplified terms, in seeking explanations for natural phenomena and processes (Le, pp. 2, 40; Riordan, *The Lightning Thief*, pp.67-68). Existing mythologies have often been outsourced by fantasy authors when creating their literary fantastic worlds. Applying Mendelsohn's categorisation of fantasy texts based on the rhetorical and narrative strategies used for the purpose, Iva Le identifies Riordan's pentalogy as an intrusion fantasy with the fantastic penetrating the "real" world and throwing it into chaos. The hero's mission is, as in Classical narratives, the recovery of balance and harmony. The author Rick Riordan is introduced, most importantly, as a former teacher due to the extent to which his former profession informs his writing. In the analytical part, Iva Le demonstrates very well how proficiently Riordan capitalises on his teacher experiences, and that he does so with humour and mild self-deprecation that resonates well with his teenage audiences. Ms Le also addresses some of the controversies related to Riordan's work, namely the quality of the film adaptations and accusations of sexism.

At the beginning of the analytical part, I like Iva Le's use of the prophecies to summarise the core missions, and hence plots, in the individual novels. The next section focuses on Riordan's treatment of Greek mythology in general, pointing at relevant rhetorical and narrative aspects, such as the use of humour or the communication of the necessary information about the mythological characters to his readers. Iva Le also draws attention to Riordan's inclusion of ADHD and learning disorders in the stories, motivated by his son's struggles and his own teacher experience. These impairments are treated not as weaknesses but reverse sides, or appendages, of (hidden) strengths. Where Ms Le's interpretation goes amiss is her point regarding Christianity (p. 40). The omission of a part of the conversation from her quote may explain the misreading: the preacher is not punished for his theology but for his dishonest, fraudulent behaviour. The comparative analysis of Riordan's mythological characters is supported by Giesecke's *Classical Mythology A to Z* encyclopaedia and Petiška's Czech retelling of the myths. This combination, alongside Pringle's encyclopaedia and Britannica online, is sufficient for the purposes of the present thesis, nevertheless, I would also recommend Robert Graves' classical text *The Greek Myths* for its scope and detail. Ms Le's comparison leads to the conclusion that Riordan remains largely truthful to the Classical models, nevertheless, he applies his creative agency to make his characters attractive to his readership as well as to make them fit in the stories. He reimagines the Olympian world to work within the Percy Jackson universe, adding certain laws and rules and tying it to the Western civilisation and its history. While the thesis is primarily focused on individual characters, this aspect would deserve a more expanded commentary. More why-questions may have been asked regarding the characters' adjustment compared with the Classical models, for example, why is Hermes featured as the inventor of the internet? Is there anything about the Greek Hermes to grant him such inventive genius? Finally, Percy himself, and the role of human or semi-human heroes in the myths should be included in the discussion.

The thesis is written in excellent English, with occasional inaccuracies (misplaced or missing articles, wrong prepositions), capitalisation inconsistencies, and omissions. There are also some inconsistencies in referencing (short references in footnotes with or without shortened title; missing italics in quotes; italics in article titles instead of journal titles in the Bibliography). Acronyms are used in the text for Giesecke and Petiška without proper notification, and Giesecke is omitted in the Bibliography. Despite these formal shortcomings,

Ms Le has demonstrated excellent knowledge of the primary texts and good critical reading competences. She has also a very good understanding of the writer-(text)-reader interaction, especially in the context of youth and children's literature.

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

Navrhovaná známka: výborně

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. Can you identify any mythological figures that inform the portrayal of Percy Jackson? Which major Classical hero does Percy resemble by refusing the offer of immortality?
2. How do you understand Rabbi's assertion that Riordan's „interpretation of Greek mythology challenges the contemporary class conflicts“?
3. Are there any reasons derived from the myths to portray Hermes as an inventor?

Podpis vedoucí bakalářské práce:.....



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