



FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University

Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

EXAMINER'S REPORT

Eliška Zunová: *Fiction and Truth in Jeanette Winterson's Novels*

In her thesis, Ms. Zunová focuses on the questions of fiction, truth, and storytelling in selected novels by Jeanette Winterson, providing illuminating and perceptive readings of *Sexing the Cherry* (1989), *The Stone Gods* (2007), and *Frankissstein* (2019), bringing together works from different phases of Winterson's career, and connecting them convincingly through the chosen focus. She also demonstrates commendable knowledge of the author's oeuvre in general, thus proving that the choice of novels for the thesis was not incidental.

In the thesis, Ms. Zunová draws on available scholarship on Winterson's fiction and manages to balance engagement with existing research and her own original observations: her own voice is always clearly heard. The initial explication on truth, reality, and fiction from a philosophical standpoint that foregrounds the analysis of the novels is brief but lucid and productive. The choice of theoretical material is also impressive and purposeful, including several works on practices of postmodernism but also discussions of fairy tales and monstrosity, and White's *Metahistory*.

The thesis, including the abstracts, is well-organised, carefully formatted, eloquently written, and exciting to read. In terms of assuredness and depth of analysis, the thesis not only fulfils but exceeds what is required on the BA level.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. Is there any aspect of the thesis that you would like to change in retrospect?
2. What other directions would you see as relevant for the study of Winterson? Would you like to pursue any of them in your own work? Have you discovered any major gaps in existing criticism while writing the thesis?
3. Several times in the thesis, you mention that Winterson's work brings forth the importance of fiction as a source of learning – would you say her novels have a special potential to be used in actual education? If yes, in what way?

I am happy to recommend this thesis for defence and suggest the grade "excellent" (výborně), depending on the result of the viva.

Mgr. Petra Johana Poncarová, PhD.
29 August 2022, Prague