

Opponent's Report on B.A. thesis by

Ms. Victoria Hädler

ELEMENTS OF THE GROTESQUE IN THE NOVELS OF TONI MORRISON

Ms. Victoria Hädler in her BA thesis profiles some of the leading edge aspects of the grotesque in three key novel texts authored by Toni Morrison, *Beloved*, *Sula*, and *The Bluest Eye*. The study is both well researched and well written, and contains work to be commended.

The thesis contains forty-eight pages across four chapters one of which is an Introduction and another a Conclusion; there is also a reasonable Bibliography. The chapter titles for the body of the thesis include the following: "2: Devices of the Grotesque in Morrison's Fiction 3: Effects of Using the Grotesque". All in all, the thesis is well structured and organized and clear in the exposition of its presentation strategy. Stylistically the thesis is well written although there is the odd error e.g. "human psyche" (9) needs "the" before it, "shape of a trees" (24) should be "shape of a tree", and there is a double "in the in the fall" (28) so one "in the" should be removed. All in all though the text reads cleanly.

The two main theorists deployed for the analysis of the grotesque are Mikhail Bakhtin and Wolfgang Iser, and their usage seems both apt and intelligent to this reader. The arguments made for the enlistment of the grotesque by Morrison in her artistic worlds is both interesting and compelling, and shows that the candidate has wrestled in an effortful and able way with this difficult and truly fascinating subject area.

Question: I would simply ask the candidate if there is any shortcoming or problematic ideological complicity with power in Morrison's adaptation of the grotesque to enhance the complexity of her accounts of matters in her novel writing?

In light of the foregoing mentions, I hereby recommend the pre thesis defense mark of 1 (výborně) for this high quality thesis work.

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