

Article: “ [REDACTED] ”

Recommendation: Minor Revision

The author presents a compelling reading of John Kennedy Toole’s *A Confederacy of Dunces* through Mikhail Bakhtin’s carnival images in *Rabelais and his World* to prod tensions in the text. I suggest the following changes, though, to improve the argument:

1. The length of the article exceeds *Explicator* conventions by approximately two hundred words. The argument would not suffer from syntactical and grammatical revision, which might reduce length. The author could pay attention to instances of passive voice (“There are two features Jones shares with Ignatius”) and imprecise language (“defines grotesque realism as solely definable”) to further strengthen the writing.
2. At times, referents or terms are made unclear to the reader. Such instances include “*The contemporary allegory* may resemble Bakhtin’s...” (Is *Confederacy* the referent here for “contemporary allegory”? A particular aspect of *Confederacy*?), and “Ignatius’ medieval bodily principles” (Undefined).
3. The parallelism of “dual-aspect” or “two-world” conditions between Jones and Ignatius is, as yet, perhaps underdeveloped, or could at the least benefit from further attention.
4. The descriptor “space-age” for Jones’ glasses is unclear and appears only in the title and the last sentence of the article. Perhaps this term could be included and explained in the introductory paragraph.

The titular association of Jones’ glasses with Bakhtin’s depiction of the carnival mask is the most compelling component of the article, and thoroughly convincing. As the author considers suggestions for minor revision, focus on this subject will likely become more pronounced. Such minor changes would in turn help the reader appreciate the author’s original and persuasive association of Toole with Bakhtin.