

In the Sea there are Crocodiles (Fabio Geda)

A true story about Enaiatollah Akbari



WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

- Perspectives
- Power
- Identity
- Culture
- Relationships
- Conflict
- Context

Thinking Point :



- Can I explain how the narrative voice is being developed throughout the novel?
- Can I evaluate how the writer explores feelings and attitudes towards home life?

Key words:

- Refugees
- Immigration
- Asylum seekers
- Human rights
- Hazara people
- Discrimination
- Conflict
- Loneliness
- Family
- Power
- Trafficking
- Empathy
- Extremism
- Tone
- Taliban

Summary:

Enaiatollah's journey begins when his mother leaves him at a refugee camp in Pakistan, as she fears for his life if he stays with her in Afghanistan and is forced to do the most difficult thing a mother can do. From here Enaiatollah uses his wits and the help of fellow 'illegals' as he struggles to survive in search of a better life. This search takes him through Iran, Turkey, Greece and finally Italy on a journey full of perils.

On the way he does all kinds of jobs from selling sweets on the roadside to working on building sites in terrible working conditions and travels in various dangerous ways, under lorries, in inflatable dinghys and walking across mountains. He meets all sorts of people, those who try to stop him and a few that help him on his way, we learn the methods of people trafficking and the industry that has built up around it. Enaiatollah's story is told in an understated yet engaging way.

This story charts the same story thousands of people undertake every day, Enaiatollah is one of the lucky ones. This important book will make you realise the ridiculous nature of nation states and boundaries and how lucky we are to be born in Europe.

Point: I think that Enaiat is confused/happy/distressed/intelligent
Evidence: The quote... "..."
Explanation: This suggests/infers that...

NARRATIVE VOICE

Can you find a quotation you think sounds:

1. Conversational
2. Gives a child's view of events
3. Is a moment of high drama
4. Seems to be speaking to someone directly
5. Has simple sentences



Can you describe Enaiat's personality?

SOCIAL CONTEXT

BACKGROUND

The Taliban took control of Afghanistan in 1996, and imposed very strict rules based on their extreme interpretation of Islam. They also targeted certain ethnic minorities including the Hazara people. This led to many Afghans fleeing the country in search of safety, but often living in desperate conditions, penniless, unable to speak the local language and in search of protection. There are still thousands of children struggling in a similar situation to Enaiatollah. Many leave Afghanistan because it remains dangerous and unsafe, but are discriminated against because of their ethnicity.

Structural devices

- Order of events (beginning, middle, end)
- Change in focus
- Repetition
- First sentence
- Last sentence
- Patterns
- Perspective change
- Juxtaposition
- Tense changes
- Punctuation
- Foreshadowing
- Zoom in/Zoom out



Reading Guide Questions:

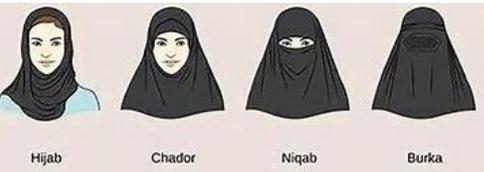
Does knowing that this is a true story affect the way you read the novel?
 Are Enaiatollah's questions of Fabio throughout the novel meant to remind you that this is true?

There are very few female characters encountered in the novel - why do you think this is?

Overall, do you find Enaiatollah's story uplifting or heart-breaking? Is any of it hard to comprehend? Which sections affected you most?

"Without school, life is like ashes."
 Page 24

Can you identify any language techniques in this quote?



Enaiatollah's Journey

Afghanistan → Pakistan → Iran → Turkey → Greece → Italy

