



The Terrorist by John Updike

Themes

- Religion
 - characters
- USA
 - politics 147
 - criticism
 - influence of TV 172
 - consumerism 152
 - history 176

publ 2006

post 2001 scenario

Narrative

scenario > distraction/filling (e.g. 111 Beth)

Narrator

- omniscient god-like!
- uses characters to preach?

Ironical narrative?

Humour

soaps 127

Language

beetle metaphor 253?

Characters

Ahmad

- name = mad?
- religious zealot
- beliefs?
 - medieval
 - flesh is bad (38)
 - this world rotten 117
 - clean/unclean 156

Rashid

- iman
- Yemeni?
- coward?
- irony?

Jack Levy

- lapsed Jew 23
- counsellor 33
- jewish saviour?
- irony?

Beth

- Lutheran 24
- overweight
- librarian
 - soap fanatic 124-5
 - irony?

Joryleen

- semi-christian
- sings black choir

Hermione

assistant sec State

Charlie

- voice critical of US
- CIA agent
- irony?