

Subject terminology

- **PROTAGONIST:** the main character who all of the action revolves around.
- **NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE:** the point of view that the story is told from.
- **CONTEXT:** ideas and events that were happening around the time the book was written
- **Internal voice:** the inner thoughts and feelings of the character.
- **Taboo language:** words or phrases that most people find shocking or impolite.

Literary techniques

- **METAPHOR:** when one thing (this is called the 'TENOR') is compared to another thing (this is called the 'VEHICLE') to help the reader to understand an aspect of the original thing more clearly (understanding the link between the tenor and the vehicle is called the 'GROUND'). Example: *'The snow was confetti'*. Snow = tenor. Confetti = vehicle. Snow is compared to confetti to show how delicate and beautiful it is = ground.
- **MOTIF:** an object or place that helps to explore a bigger idea e.g. Jamie's Spiderman t-shirt.
- **PERSONIFICATION:** giving non-human objects human features and characteristics.
- **SIMILE:** when one thing is compared to another thing of a different kind to add to the reader's understanding of the original object. Example: *'The snow fell like beautiful confetti.'*

Themes - bigger ideas that the writer explores through the events and characters in the story

Grief: the author helps the reader to understand that people experience loss in many different ways. The reader is shown how grief can sometimes lead to destructive, thoughtful or rebellious behaviour.

Relationships (family and friendship): the writer uses the characters to show the pain that can be caused by not communicating properly with family members and not supporting them. The author also helps the reader to understand the comfort and kindness that can be found in friendships.

Prejudice: the author explores how discrimination and bullying results in suffering for those it is targeted towards. Pitcher helps the reader to understand that prejudiced views are often a result of ignorance.

Guilt: the writer helps the reader to understand the pain of feeling regretful. The author also helps the reader to understand that feelings of guilt are sometimes the result of having strong feelings about something else.

Courage: the author uses the characters to show that being honest about emotions and needing support is brave.

Context:

This book was written in 2011 by Annabel Pitcher. In an interview, she said that she started to write the story after watching a documentary that explored the impact of terrorist attacks. She wanted to explore how this might feel through a range of characters and different experiences.

• **What is an 'extremist' group?**

A group of people who hold ideas or beliefs that most people find unreasonable or unacceptable. Some of these groups might resort to violence to get the attention of others. Extremist groups are never representative of an entire religion.

• **What do we know about terrorism in the 2000s?**

In 2001, there was a terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in New York, America. People often call this attack '9/11'. The people who claimed responsibility for this attack were a violent extremist group. Although this group claimed to be linked to Islam, they were a terrorist group that had extreme beliefs of hatred and violence that go against the teachings of Islam.

Since 2001, there have been further terrorist attacks, across the world. Many of the people responsible for these have been part of extremist groups, including an explosion at the Manchester Evening News Arena in 2017 during an Ariana Grande concert. The character of Rose, Jamie's sister, has been killed in a fictional terrorist attack in the novel. These attacks are tragic and terrible and have caused a huge amount of pain but it is important to remember that they are extremely rare.

• **What is Islamophobia?**

Islam is a religion, and the people who follow it are called Muslims.

Islamophobia is when people who are part of the Muslim community are discriminated against and treated very badly. Jamie's dad makes a lot of Islamophobic comments throughout the novel.

The rise in Islamophobia over the past few years is complicated. Many link this to people wrongly believing that the Muslim community are to blame for terrorist attacks. These attacks were committed by a small number of people who do not represent Islam, and many of the people who have been targeted and harmed by these extremist groups have been Muslim. To blame a huge group of people for the actions of a very small number who have extremist and harmful views is wrong. In the novel, the character of Sunya is discriminated against by her some of her classmates and treated very unkindly. She suffers as a result of the Islamophobic views around her.

Characters

- Jamie.
- Sunya: Jamie's friend.
- Jamie's dad.
- Jamie's mum.
- Nigel: Jamie's mum's boyfriend.
- Jasmine: Jamie's older sister.
- Leo: Jasmine's boyfriend.
- Rose: Jamie's other older sister.
- Roger: Jamie's cat.
- Mrs Farmer: Jamie's teacher.
- Daniel: a boy in Jamie's class.