

Barbara Bleiman's provisional agenda for *In the Sea There are Crocodiles*

What kind of novel is this?

A rites of passage novel

The story of a journey – the idea of an odyssey

A political novel arguing about a big issue

An adventure story – in which there is danger, risk and suspense

A non-fiction account

A mixed genre – non-fiction written as fiction, fiction drawing on non-fiction. Enaiat's own statement that he's only interested in the facts

What kind of telling? What kind of voice?

Told as if speaking directly to Fabio –

Minor sentences

Speech-like constructions

Direct questions to the reader

The intrusion of Fabio himself, in italicised sections of dialogue

Direct address to Fabio in the narrative itself

It's the older Enaiat looking back but we get a 'child's eye perspective'. Sometimes innocent of what we as readers understand. Simple, unworldly in the early chapters.

Use of Afghani words and phrases – not so many as to cause confusion but giving a genuine 'feel' for the place, the culture, the people, their lives.

Suspense and drama – moments of intense anxiety for the boy, highs and lows, shocking scenes, moments of great sorrow

Structure – an epic journey, across the world, encountering lots of dangers. In looking at each episode, one can think about it in relation to the others.

Characters – the boy himself, Fabio, Sufi, various characters who pose threats or who are kind to him along the way. Do they fit into any 'types'?

Villains/aggressors

Protectors and humane figures

Women/mother figures

Other people like him – children, migrants

His sidekicks

Authorities and authority figures

Places – distinguishing between different worlds of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Greece Italy

Political and social messages

What are they? Issues of migration, cultural identity, oppression and repression, humanity and cruelty, global upheaval

Strongly expressed or lightly suggested?