



Department of Education, Sabaragamuwa - Weekly School

Week - 15

Subject:- English Literature

Grade :- 11

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Poetry

The Terrorist, He's Watching (Wisława Szymborska)

1. What is the narrative technique used in the poem "The Terrorist, He's Watching"?
2. What technique is used by the writer to create the tension in the poem "The Terrorist, He's Watching"?

Discuss the following

- a. The first stanza gives the setting.
 - b. A place like a bar has been selected
 - c. The intention of this terrorist
3. The terrorist sees a lot of movement of people- men, women, girls and boys. The narrator sees them too. How does the narrator see each of them?
 4. How do you interpret these lines?
 - a. "the short one, he's lucky, he's going on a scooter"
 - b. "The girl, she's walking along with a green ribbon in her hair was she that dumb, did she go in or not"
 5. Whose point of view do you find in the poem? The terrorist's or the narrator's?
 6. The terrorist seems to be looking at his watch all the time. Why does he do that?
 7. Is the narrator also conscious of time? How do you know?
 8. How much time has passed from the time the bomb was set up to the time the girl in the green ribbon passes the bar?

9. Discuss the following ideas.

- “The poet presents the action of a terrorist dramatically synchronizing the action into a ‘movie’”.
- “The poet traces the action and the impressions of the terrorist within four minutes”
- ““There’s still time for some to go in and some to come out.”
- “The presentation becomes very visual and you await the auditory impact – the bomb to blast”.
- “The poet uses two observations in this poem- that of the narrator’s and of the terrorists”

10. From stanza to stanza the poet keeps the reader reminded of time - out of 4 minutes the countdown begins. Reflect on how the countdown technique works in this poem.