

Reading Questions: Short Stories by Arab Women Writers

In light of Monday's discussion on postmodernism and the emergence of vital and distinct Arab women's literary voices (see the powerpoint on the course website: Syllabus -> Week 8 -> Monday, Oct. 27 – "Literary Postmodernism"), please relate the short story assigned to you to its literary context by answering the following questions:

- a) To what degree does your short story conform to literary realism and/or literary commitment?
- b) Can your short story be described as a "post-modern" text? If so, how?
- c) Would you describe your short story as being representative of a specifically "feminist" (or more generally, "women's") literary craft?

In short, how does your short story relate to everything we've read and discussed in class thus far, with reference not just to specific literary works, but to intellectual and theoretical trends and tendencies in 20<sup>th</sup> century Arabic literature?

"Distant View of a Minaret" - Meredith  
"The Dummy" - Mariam  
"The Future" - Emily  
"Explosion" - Katie  
"International Women's Day" - Alex  
"The Collapse of Barriers" – Claire

*Note: I expect you to read all of the short stories assigned for Wednesday's class. They are all very short. There will be a short quiz on Wednesday covering all six stories, plus the two secondary readings.*