

Aandp and araby



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

A&P and Araby ?, John Updikes A & P and James Joyces Araby share many of the same literary traits. The primary focus of the two stories revolves around a young man who is compelled to decipher the different between cruel reality and the fantasies of romance that play in his head. That the man does, indeed, discover the difference is what sets him off into emotional collapse. One of the main similarities between the two stories is the fact that the main character, who is also the protagonist, has built up incredible, yet unrealistic, expectations of women, having focused upon one in particular towards which he places all his unrequited affection. The expectation these men hold when finally “ face to face with their object of worship” (Wells, 1993, p. 127) is what sends the final and crushing blow of reality: The rejection they suffer is far too great for them to bear.

Updike is famous for taking other authors works and twisting them so that they reflect a more contemporary flavor. While the story remains the same, the climate is singular only to Updike. This is the reason why there are similarities as well as deviations from Joyces original piece.

Plot, theme and detail are three of the most resembling aspects of the two stories over all other literary components; characteristic of both writers works, each rendition offers its own unique perspective upon the young mans romantic infatuation. Not only are descriptive phrases shared by both stories, but parallels occur with each ending, as well (Doloff 113). What is even more telling of Updikes imitation of Joyces Araby is the fact that the A & P title is hauntingly close in pronunciation to the original storys title. The theme of A & P and Araby are so close to each other that the subtle differences might be somewhat imperceptible to the untrained eye.