Vengeance

Big Mouth.
Outweighing opponents.
Leading, taunting.
Big Mouth hesitated.
Big Mouth strikes.
Opponents are surprised.
Punched in the jaw.
Big Mouth recoiled.
Kicked at his opponents.
"Fag, gonna sue us?"
Loses balance.
Tripped.
Big Mouth lying, bleeding
On concrete.
This is what you deserve.
You know it is.
Big Mouth.

(Based on the book "Big Mouth and Ugly Girl" by Joyce Carol Oates)

The impact of this book

doesn't come from anything simple,

the vividness of school shootings

like Columbine and Sandy Hook in our minds.

Matt and Ursula,

close enough to teens we've known

but standouts above stereotypes.

Big Mouth is Matt Donaghy

apparently fitting into a suburban high school,

willing to say funny, outrageous things.

Class clown, satirist wanna-be.

Ugly Girl is Ursula Riggs

"truculent warrior woman,"

big, bulky, smart, weird

and a talented basketball player

Once a nodding acquaintance

Ursula stands up to defend Matt

when unfair rumors abound

about a serious bomb threat

The story is so much more than

The day to day life of teens in school

It’s more…

More about friendships tested

More about relationships stretched – and broken – and mended

More about oppressive, rumor driven worlds of teens AND ADULTS

More about how powerful rumors can be – even when denied, fought, and ultimately

proven wrong