

War Photograph and War Photographer Essay

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“Feeling sorry for her”. Kate Daniels uses the iconic photo of the child, hurt in a napalm attack on a Vietnam village who is screaming in pain and fear, to show the extent of the suffering that innocent civilians have to go through in war time. She wants people to be aware of the pain and to show what the reality is like for them in the war, focusing on the horrors in particular. The poem uses this to instil emotions such as sympathy and compassion but also to make people feel appalled by the war. She asserts that all over the world, people are “being appalled at the war”. The poem foregrounds the human [suffering](#) and by showing this, she tries to make the Americans feel guilty for causing all this pain to millions of innocent people in Vietnam. Daniels reiterates this by criticizing the human response to war further on in the poem. “How can she know what we really are?” As the child is young, she is naïve to the world around her and therefore does not know how cruel people can be. The narrator is speaking on behalf of all the Americans in the country who believe the war is their responsibility. She uses the words “terribly human” in juxtaposition as a way of illustrating the two sides of humanity. Children tend to look to adults for help as the word “human” implies generosity, kindness and compassion. However, the word “terribly” has a negative feeling and either can mean ‘very’ or can show how awful something can be. Using these words together shows that what humans look like on the outside is not the same as what is in the inside; it contains both meanings simultaneously.

The photo of the young child running shows the desperation of her need. "Her arms stretched out" gives the reader the idea that the girl is running t...

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...n "War Photographer", the line "Belfast. Beirut. Phnom Penh," indicates that Duffy has a wider perspective of the war in which she is talking about war in general and the fact that it is happening everywhere in the world. This can be more effective because if people are reading about wars that are happening all over the world, they may become more aware of the shocking calamity that is war. The pace and the language used in each of these poems create another contrast between them. Daniels uses colloquial language with a quick pace, making the poem more conversational and focuses on the child's naïve view. Duffy, however, uses a more formal approach with a slower pace to represent the photographer reflecting and her complex ideas and imagery shows his intellectual view on war.

Works Cited

War Photograph - Kate Daniels

War Photographer - Carol Ann Duffy

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