

WAR PHOTOGRAPHER by CAROL ANN DUFFY

Answer the following questions to explore the way Duffy uses literary techniques to convey meaning in the poem.

1. What is the effect of the metaphor and sibilance in line 2?
2. What is the effect of the setting of this poem (consider light, darkness and isolation) and why might the darkroom be considered a sanctuary?
3. Why might he draw a parallel between himself and a priest?
4. This use of parataxis (the juxtaposition of clauses in a sentence without the use of a conjunction) in line six is key because it creates quite a blunt tone – what is significant about this list? What does the metaphor at the end mean?
5. What is the effect of the monosyllabic first line in the second stanza?
6. There is a double meaning of 'solutions'. In what ways might these photographs act as solutions?
7. What is the effect of the enjambment in the first three lines of the second stanza? What does the line 'which did not tremble then though seem to now' mean? What is the significance of the gentle, poignant verb 'tremble'?
8. What does he mean by 'ordinary pain'?
9. We have a moment of sustained enjambment in the third stanza, as a painful memory is experienced. He is photographing a dying man – how does Duffy portray the photographer as being sensitive and respectful here?
10. What point is Duffy making when she describes the eyes of readers and uses internal rhyme to link it to 'beers'?
11. At the end, the photographer sets off on another expedition. How is language used to convey his sense of detachment from England?
12. What is the significance of the final line and what does it suggest about the theme of increasing indifference to the victims of conflict?

FORM AND STRUCTURE

How is the poem laid out? What might be the effect of this?

ANALYTICAL PARAGRAPHS

1. How is the horror of war conveyed in this poem? Select three quotations and analyse these in detail.
2. How is the photographer presented in this poem? Make three points about his character **and** three points about his role.

FICTION ANALYSIS QUESTIONS AND RE-CREATION TASK

An extract from *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas

This extract is taken from the beginning of Chapter 5, on the day of Dantes and Mercedes' wedding.

The morning's sun rose clear and resplendent, touching the foamy waves into a network of ruby-tinted light.

The feast had been made ready on the second floor at La Reserve, with whose harbour the reader is likely familiar. The apartment destined for the purpose was spacious and lighted by a number of windows, over each of which was written in golden letters for some inexplicable reason the name of one of the principal cities of France; beneath these windows a wooden balcony extended the entire length of the house. And although the entertainment was fixed for twelve o'clock, an hour previous to that time the balcony was filled with impatient and expectant guests, consisting of the favoured part of the crew of the Pharaon, and other personal friends of the bridegroom, the whole of whom had arrayed themselves in their choicest costumes, in order to do greater honour to the occasion.

Various rumours were afloat to the effect that the owners of the Pharaon had promised to the nuptial feast; but all seemed unanimous in doubting that an act of such rare and exceeding condescension could possibly be intended.

Danglars, however, who now made his appearance, accompanied by Caderousse, effectually confirmed the report, stating that he had recently conversed with M. Morrel, who had himself assured him of his intention to dine at La Reserve.

In fact, a moment later M. Morrel appeared and was saluted with an enthusiastic burst from the crew of the Pharaon, who hailed the visit of the shipowner as a sure indication that the man whose wedding feast he thus delighted to honour would ere long be first in command of the ship; and as Dantes was universally beloved on board his vessel, the sailors put no restraint on the tumultuous joy at finding that the opinion and choice of their superiors so exactly coincided with their own.

With the entrance of M. Morrel, Danglars and Caderousse were despatched in search of the bridegroom to convey to him