



'War Photographer' by Carol Ann Duffy

Summarise what the poem is about in full sentences:

Annotate the poem with points you remember from your initial study:

War Photographer

In his darkroom he is finally alone
with spools of suffering set out in ordered rows.
the only light is red and softly glows,
as though there were a church and he
a priest preparing to intone a Mass.
Belfast. Beirut. Phnom Penh. All flesh is grass.

He has a job to do. Solutions slop in trays
beneath his hands, which did not tremble then
though seem to now. Rural England. Home again
to ordinary pain which simple weather can dispel,
to fields which don't explode beneath the feet
of running children in a nightmare heat.

Something is happening. A stranger's features
faintly start to twist before his eyes,
a half-formed ghost. He remembers the cries
of this man's wife, how he sought approval
without words to do what someone must
and how the blood stained into foreign dust.

A hundred agonies in black and white
from which his editor will pick out five or six
for Sunday's supplement. The reader's eyeballs prick
with tears between the bath and pre-lunch beers.
from the aeroplane he stares impassively at where
he earns his living and they do not care.

What is the background to the writing of 'War Photographer'?

What is Duffy's intention in writing this poem?

When was this poem written?

Who influenced the writing of this poem?

to comment

to illustrate

to teach

to critique

Language		Structure and form	
	Example and effect		Example and effect
Colour imagery		Rhyming couplet	
Sensory language		Third person	
Symbolism		Enjambment	
Personal pronoun		Listing	
Simile		Short sentences.	
Religious words		Juxtaposition	

What other poems in the anthology can we link to this poem to and why?

How does Duffy present suffering in the poem 'War Photographer'?