**Rhetorical Analysis “Retry” Assignment**

**Overview**: This is designed to make sure that everyone is solid on the basics of poetic analysis of these particular elements—**setting, plot, character, POV**--before we move on. It will also help repair the self-confidence of anyone who did badly the first time, even if it was only a time-management problem.

**Caveat:** Probably you’ve already noticed that most college professors do not offer this sort of “do-over,” and I don’t normally do it myself, particularly not after we’ve spent so much class time practicing the skills I was testing *and* I posted the prompt early so you could practice, so please do try harder to be sure you understand what’s expected of you *before* you take an exam.

**Restrictions**: You can “retry” only if you got something below a C (because “C” means you basically got it). For one thing, I don’t have time to grade another whole batch of 25 exams. Secondly, I think that would send a false message of what this class (and college in general) is about. It’s not about getting and maintaining a spotless GPA. Mistakes—even the occasional failure--are part of the learning experience.

**Points**: The retry is worth up to 12 points, which will be added to the original score. So if you got 25/55 points (an F) the first time but do well on this one, you could end up with 37 points, a C. This will not be part of the 30-point minimum I usually have for extra credit. You’d only need another 10-point extra credit to get that original “F” up to an A.

**Procedure**:

* Reread the original directions for the in-class essay, your original essay, and my comments. As before, you can choose among these elements—**plot, setting, character, POV**—and explain how the poet uses ONE or TWO of *these* elements—(not any others) to get across the **poem’s meaning**. Be sure you say what that meaning is.
* Consult with me if you aren’t clear on what you need to do differently.
* Next, read the attached poem carefully and annotate, as we practiced.
* This time please TYPE your analysis, aiming for approximately 2 pages (double-spaced).
* I’d strongly advise you to use this as a practice run for timed writing, but I won’t hold you to it. You are on your honor in terms of NOT consulting anyone but me and NOT looking on the Web for a canned analysis by someone else. Forgive me for even mentioning it, but I do see a lot of cheating. I reserve the right to have you submit it to Canvas where it can be checked by Turnitin.com.

NOTE: If you still aren’t clear on how to do this, you can always ask me, ideally during an office hour, but email works too.

War Photograph

A naked child is running

along the path toward us,

her arms stretched out,

her mouth open,

the world turned to trash

behind her.

She is running from the smoke

and the soldiers, from the bodies

of her mother and little sister

thrown down into a ditch,

from the blown-up bamboo hut

from the melted pots and pans.

And she is also running from the gods

who have changed the sky to fire

and puddled the earth with skin and blood.

She is running--my god--to us,

10,000 miles away,

reading the caption

beneath her picture

in a weekly magazine.

All over the country

we’re feeling sorry for her

and being appalled at the war

being fought in the other world.

She keeps on running, you know,

after the shutter of the camera

clicks. She’s running to us.

For how can she know,

her feet beating a path

on another continent?

How can she know

what we really are?

From the distance, we look

so terribly human.

By [Kate Daniels](https://www.poets.org/node/44580) From *A Chorus for Peace: A Global Anthology of Poetry by Women*, edited by Marilyn Arnold, Bonnie Ballif-Spanvill, and Kristen Tracy, published by the University of Iowa Press. Copyright © 2002 by the University of Iowa Press. All rights reserved.

**Note**: In case you’re too young to know the photo described here, it’s from 1972, a scene from the Vietnam War, and the girl depicted is Phan Thị Kim Phúc. Google that name for the happy ending (for that one girl, at least).