**Here are three poems. Choose ONE poem. Read it. Complete TP-CASTT poetry analysis**.

The Value Of Human Life

by Jeff  
  
How do you measure the value of human life?  
When people can take it away at a moments’ notice.  
When furthering ones agenda is more important  
than a boy having his father come home at the end of the day.  
When hatred rules the heart and mind.  
And people become objects and collateral.  
An insurance policy to achieve ones objective,  
And to further ones control of the solution.

What makes one person think he has the right?  
To control another, to take away everything he has ever had.  
To cause hardship and loss upon his family  
For the purpose of gaining power.  
  
I am at a loss to comprehend such small minds,  
Cowards that hide behind masks.  
Chopping off heads to bestial authority,  
Who have no remorse for their actions.  
The ground has not enough holes to hide them for long,  
Even the lowest animal must raise his head for air.  
The United States Military will waiting,  
And justice will be served.

\*http://www.creative-poems.com/poem.php?id=83385

**A note on the next author: Dunya Mikhail**

War is a recurring theme for poet Dunya Mikhail, an Iraqi exile who fled her country after being placed on Saddam Hussein's enemies list. She wrote her first poems as a teenager in Baghdad, just as the slaughter of the Iran-Iraq War began. Subsequent wars offered more to write about.

One of Mikhail's collections is called The War Works Hard. It's also the name of [a poem](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=11762755#11665892) with an ironic take on the meaning and consequence of war. Mikhail, who now lives in the United States, wrote that poem in response to the Persian Gulf war of 1991. "When I think of war, for me, it's by default a ... lose-lose case," the poet tells Renee Montagne. "I believe there's no winner in the war because, you know, the killed one dies physically and the killer dies morally. So they are both dead."

Mikhail wrote the poem ["Bag of Bones"](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=11665892#bones) about the current Iraq war. For Mikhail, writing about war is not necessarily a way to heal wounds, she says. "On the contrary, it keeps [them] open forever," Mikhail adds. "Poems are like X-rays. It makes you see the wound and understand it."

**Here are three poems. Choose ONE poem. Read it. Complete TP-CASTT poetry analysis.**

**Bag of Bones**

What good luck!   
She has found his bones.  
The skull is also in the bag  
the bag in her hand  
like all other bags  
in all other trembling hands.  
His bones, like thousands of bones  
in the mass graveyard,   
his skull, not like any other skull.   
Two eyes or holes  
with which he listened to music  
that told his own story,   
a nose  
that never knew clean air,   
a mouth, open like a chasm,   
was not like that when he kissed her  
there, quietly,   
not in this place  
noisy with skulls and bones and dust  
dug up with questions:   
What does it mean to die all this death  
in a place where the darkness plays all this silence?   
What does it mean to meet your loved ones now  
with all of these hollow places?   
To give back to your mother  
on the occasion of death  
a handful of bones  
she had given to you  
on the occasion of birth?   
To depart without death or birth certificates  
because the dictator does not give receipts  
when he takes your life?   
The dictator has a heart, too,   
a balloon that never pops.   
He has a skull, too, a huge one  
not like any other skull.   
It solved by itself a math problem  
That multiplied the one death by millions  
to equal homeland  
The dictator is the director of a great tragedy.   
He has an audience, too,   
an audience that claps  
until the bones begin to rattle—  
the bones in bags,   
the full bag finally in her hand,   
unlike her disappointed neighbor  
who has not yet found her own.

\*Both poems by Dunya Mikhail (See more information about the author on the other side.)

**The War Works Hard**

How magnificent the war is!  
How eager  
and efficient!   
Early in the morning,   
it wakes up the sirens  
and dispatches ambulances  
to various places,   
swings corpses through the air,  
rolls stretchers to the wounded,  
summons rain  
from the eyes of mothers,   
digs into the earth  
dislodging many things  
from under the ruins...  
Some are lifeless and glistening,  
others are pale and still throbbing...  
It produces the most questions  
in the minds of children,   
entertains the gods  
by shooting fireworks and missiles  
into the sky,   
sows mines in the fields  
and reaps punctures and blisters,   
urges families to emigrate,   
stands beside the clergymen  
as they curse the devil  
(poor devil, he remains  
with one hand in the searing fire)...   
The war continues working, day and night.   
It inspires tyrants  
to deliver long speeches,   
awards medals to generals  
and themes to poets.   
It contributes to the industry  
of artificial limbs,   
provides food for flies,   
adds pages to the history books,   
achieves equality  
between killer and killed,   
teaches lovers to write letters,   
accustoms young women to waiting,   
fills the newspapers  
with articles and pictures,   
builds new houses  
for the orphans,   
invigorates the coffin makers,   
gives grave diggers  
a pat on the back  
and paints a smile on the leader's face.   
The war works with unparalleled diligence!   
Yet no one gives it  
a word of praise.