War Photographer by Carol Ann Duffy

1. What are the main themes of the poem?
2. What is the poem about?
3. Copy out a metaphor that also uses alliteration in Stanza 1 and explain its meaning and effect.
4. What is the effect of the word ‘red’ in Stanza 1?
5. Explain the religious simile used in Stanza 1. How does this relate back to the ‘ordered rows’ in line 2? Pick out words from Stanza 1 with a religious theme.
6. Why does the poem list place names in Stanza 1? What is their significance?
7. Explain the metaphor ‘All flesh is grass’ in Stanza 1.
8. Now that the photographer is safely back in ‘Rural England’ how does he feel as he develops the photos? How is his reaction different from when he was taking the pictures? Support your answer with an example from the poem.
9. What is the photograph of in Stanza 3? What memories does the picture bring back?
10. Select effective words and phrases from Stanza 3 that show the suffering of the dying man and his wife.
11. In the final line of the poem the poet says ‘they do not care’. How is this idea explored in the final stanza? Give examples.
12. What different emotions does the poet experience in this poem? How does he feel about the work he does?
13. What is your reaction to the poem?
14. How effective is it at conveying its theme? Explain giving your personal opinions.