

FHS COMMENTS 2015 12

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: The issue of refugees and their intersection with the healthcare system is obviously a very important topic to address. Overall, I liked the compactness of the poem, and the way it addressed a massively overwhelming topic in just the few lines of a 55 word story. I'd suggest considering some minor changes:

1) Title: Seems too generalizing, as if you are describing the category of "refugee patient." Also, it is confusing because even in the poem there are several patients (family members). Perhaps "Refugee Patients" might work better, implying that there are other refugee patients whose experiences might be different.

2) "Removed filter" - I know what you're trying to say, but it is an awkward phrase. Maybe try "indifferent" if you need to preserve your word count?

3) "Unwelcoming reception" seems weak, especially if it is meant to convey a kind of "hell" (from previous line). "...the reality of..." is also kind of clichéd. Maybe "Harsh reception into the world of..." Or maybe a different line altogether?

The last two lines are really powerful, the strongest part of the piece. My only quibble - the "black bag" image is pretty old-fashioned. For me it worked, and I'm content with it, but there another way to convey this that is more au courant? "An EMR of diagnoses, tests, and prescriptions"?

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: Like the topic of refugee healthcare in this country - timely and important. Writing is pretty mediocre. Last two lines are good (see above for small concern). Overall, I'd recommend a little tweaking.