

FSH COMMENTS 2016 8

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: This is a surprisingly accurate summary of Arthur Frank's narrative typologies in poetic form! The restitution, quest, and chaos stories represented in a few sure brushstrokes - elegant. The primary purpose of the poem, however, at least in my reading, is that it reveals that underneath every type of story chaos - horrible, overwhelming chaos - lurks, and gloats. The artistic examples deepen our understanding of this chaos through the images they evoke, and are so widely known that they will likely be familiar to most readers.

My one suggestion would be to change the title. It is not very engaging, and as long as you have the explanatory footnote, it is clear that the poem is based on Frank's work. Maybe "Our Stories of Illness," or perhaps something that grabs the reader even more strongly. Some hook is needed to get the reader to keep reading.

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: I like this poem, for the reasons offered above. I recommend changing the title, but otherwise it is well-written. It will teach readers about Frank's narrative typologies, while arguing that in the end, chaos always wins. Depressing, but a perspective worth having. In the interests of full disclosure, I read and edited an earlier version of this poem at the request of the author. I still feel I have sufficient perspective to provide a meaningful review.