

Poetry Project

Evan Patrick

- White man came across the sea
He brought us pain and misery
He killed our tribes, he killed our creed
He took our game for his own need

We fought him hard we fought him well
Out on the plains we gave him hell
But many came too much for Cree
Oh will we ever be set free?

Riding through dustclouds and barren wastes
Gallopig hard on the plains
Chasing the redskins back to their holes
Fighting them at their own game
Murder for freedom a stab in the back
Women and children and cowards attack

- Run to the hills run for your lives
Run to the hills run for your lives

Soldier blue on the barren wastes
Hunting and killing their game
Raping the women and wasting the men
The only good indians are tame
Selling them whisky and taking their gold
Enslaving the young and destroying the old

Run to the hills run for your lives
(repeat to end)

The Novelistic, Dramatic Approach

- The speaker changes from a Cree Indian to a white soldier then to a neutral speaker. The setting is during the 1800's conflict between Native Americans and white soldiers. The protagonist is the Cree Indians, and the antagonist is the white soldiers. The plot is the Cree Indians crying out for freedom when the white soldiers attack their villages and rape and murder the inhabitants. The Cree strives for freedom from the white men's attacks. The outcome is they must escape to the hills to survive, while the captured Indians are raped and murdered by the white men.

The Cree Indians are desperate for freedom from the white man. They are about to undergo another attack.

The white man attack on horseback and start attacking Indians.

Indians are fleeing trying to escape as the white man savagely kill Indians and destroy their village.

Soldiers start enslaving captured Indians and raping the Indian women. They start pillaging the village, taking their whisky and gold.

Some Indians escaped, but the captured are treated horribly by the white men, and the Cree's way of life has been destroyed.

The Realistic Approach

- Run To the Hills relates to me because I live in a country where minorities have to undergo racist attacks whether they are physical, verbal, or emotional. People are still not treated equally 200 years after the attacks on Native Americans.

The Thematic Approach

- The message in the song is just another example of genocide, racism, and prejudice in our world. The song gives us insight about the tragedy of the Native Americans that once thrived in isolation in North America. It tells us about how the white men ravaged the villages of thousands of Native Americans and did horrible things such as “enslaving” and “raping” them, as mentioned in the song.

The Allusion Approach

- Run To the Hills could be alluded to a film called “Soldier Blue.” The film is about the massacre of Cheyenne Indians by a group of US militia. The line in Run To the Hills, “soldier blue on the barren wastes” is proof of this allusion.

The Musical Approach

- **White man came across the sea
He brought us pain and misery
He killed our tribes, he killed our creed
He took our game for his own need**

**We fought him hard we fought him well
Out on the plains we gave him hell
But many came too much for Cree
Oh will we ever be set free?**

**Riding through dustclouds and barren wastes
Galloping hard on the plains
Chasing the redskins back to their holes
Fighting them at their own game
Murder for freedom a stab in the back
Women and children and cowards attack
Run to the hills run for your lives
Run to the hills run for your lives**

**Soldier blue on the barren wastes
Hunting and killing their game
Raping the women and wasting the men
The only good indians are tame
Selling them whisky and taking their gold
Enslaving the young and destroying the old**

**Run to the hills run for your lives
(repeat to end)**
- **Rhyme Scheme: AABB in first two verses; ABCBDD in the last two verses; and AA in the chorus**
- **Rhythm: Iambic Tetrameter in verse and chorus**
- **In the first verse the rhythm is changed. “White” is stressed because of the author wanted to elaborate on the white men’s harshness and role in the conflict**

The English Teacher Approach

- **White man came across the sea
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**Soldier blue on the barren wastes
Hunting and killing their game
Raping the women and wasting the men
The only good indians are tame
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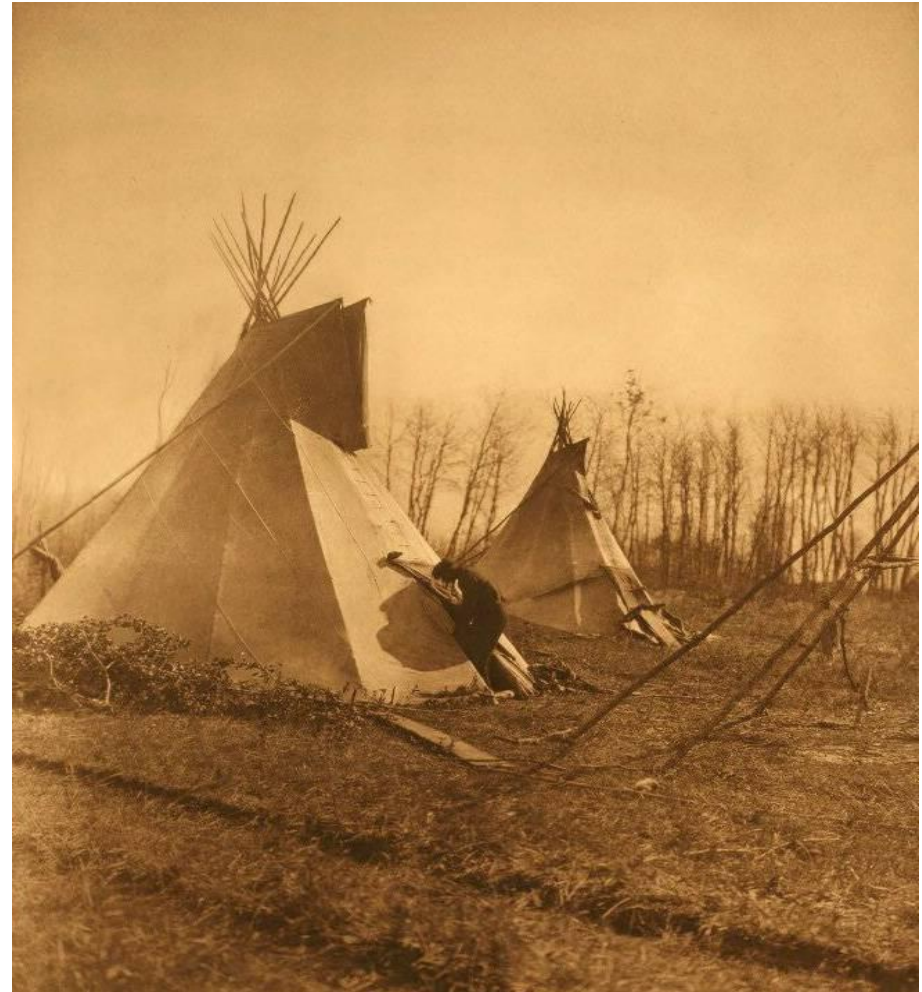
**Run to the hills run for your lives
(repeat to end)**
- “He...he...he...” is an anaphora in lines 2, 3, and 4. The speaker is elaborating on the countless misdeeds of the white man by repetition. This makes the reader’s view of the white man change for the worse in the beginning of the poem.
- “Redskins” in verse three is the white man’s jargon to give the reader insight to the white man’s thoughts.
- In the chorus, “run” is repeated to give the reader a sense of urgency that the Indians have.

The Significant Event Approach

- “Run To the Hills” was written in 1982. Native American genocide was not happening in this time period, but Harris was very interested in Native American history. He decided to share the treachery of white men and the massacre they laid upon innocent people in a song performed by his band, Iron Maiden.

The Art History Approach

- “The barren wastes” are symbolic of the destruction and chaos the white men are causing. “The dustclouds” and “the plains” give us an image of the Cree village and its environment.



The Structural Approach

- The first two stanzas are in the viewpoint of the Cree Indians, which has a slower more desolate rhythm. Then it shifts in the next stanza to a fast galloping rhythm to represent the soldier's horses. Then it goes to a neutral viewpoint after the chorus.