

**When Puffy says, and we won't stop, 'cause we can't stop. by Rasheed Copeland**  
**Visual Creation & Analysis**

**Introduction:**

"I wrote this poem to reflect on the foregone circumstances that many Black children are born into, how these circumstances animate themselves and are taught through their interactions with families and their neighborhoods. Many times, the aforementioned entities are often functioning from their own inheritance of gross mishandling. And without remedy, they are forced to normalize the dysfunction that has been visited upon them. This poem is an attempt to hold space for those who continue to navigate the culture of harm that has informed their entire existence despite how indelible its effects may seem."

- Rasheed Copeland, on "When Puffy says, and we won't stop, 'cause we can't stop."

**Directions:** Follow the steps provided below.

- Read the [poem](#), paying particular attention to the figurative language he utilizes to illustrate his message, as expressed in the introduction provided above.
- Choose one example of figurative language from the poem that you feel best encapsulates Copeland's message.
- Then, determine how that example of figurative language reflects, parallels, or reiterates an element of Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing*.
- Using that line from the poem, create a visual that not only literally illustrates the line from the poem, but also captures the holistic message/theme of the poem AND novel. Use one of the online art programs provided for you below.
- Provide a brief synopsis or overview of your image, discussing how it is representative of the novel and poem.
- Discuss the visual elements of your image. You need to discuss (in at least three well-developed sentences per element) **three** different visual techniques you utilized to reinforce the poem's theme.

EXAMPLE	
VISUAL	ANALYSIS OF VISUAL
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Synopsis of Image:</b></p>
	<p>The visual of the boy swinging from a life preserver serves to illustrate the sheer damage and devastation Hurricane Katrina has caused toward the youth of New Orleans.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Visual Element Analysis:</b></p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The irony between the act itself and the substance of the picture serves to underscore the sheer impact of the storm, particularly on children. The illustration depicts a boy swinging on what would normally be a staple of childhood, a tire swing, but the tire itself has been supplanted with a life preserver. By intentionally replacing an object as innocent as a tire on a tire swing with an object used to save lives, the artist effectively illustrates the "new normal" that children of New Orleans have been forced to accept.</li> <li>2. The contrast in colors also serves to convey the impact that the storm has had on New Orleans' youth. The colors of the boy are simply black and white, nothing else. The absence of the colors ultimately reinforces the reality of children affected by the storm: ultimately lacking and devoid of life. The life preserver, on the other hand, is a vibrant red, the color it is naturally supposed to be in the "real world." The juxtaposition of the colors underscores the harsh impact of the storm and how it has forcibly thrust itself on the once joyful existence of the children of New Orleans.</li> <li>3. Most obvious visual element is the expression on the young boy's face. The boy's face is glum; he is literally scowling. Despite the fact that the boy is swinging on a tire swing - an act meant to elicit a sense of adventure and joy - the boy derives none of it. The utter lifelessness on the boy's face ultimately reinforces the grim reality of Katrina's devastation, that the acts once capable of bringing happiness to children simply don't exist anymore, or, at the very least, are unable to evoke that same sense of childhood as the era before the storm.</li> </ol>

VISUAL	ANALYSIS OF VISUAL
	<p data-bbox="237 323 949 385">Use one of the following programs to create your visual. You may create an image or manipulate an existing photo.</p> <ol data-bbox="252 413 491 522" style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <a href="#">AutoDraw</a></li><li>2. <a href="#">Sketchpad</a></li><li>3. <a href="#">Editor Method</a></li></ol>
	<p data-bbox="1292 593 1544 624"><b>Synopsis of Image:</b></p>
	<p data-bbox="1251 733 1584 764"><b>Visual Element Analysis:</b></p> <ol data-bbox="1076 801 1104 904" style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li></ol>