Before reading the essay, look closely at the image on the front cover. Describe what you see in the photograph.

According to the author, how do children respond to the extreme conditions in which they grow up? Explain the process through which extreme conditions become ‘normalized.’

What did the author overlook? Are there other details in the picture that can help us make sense of this scene?

The author claims that this image disrupts other representations of children growing up in conditions of extreme violence. Find (or describe) other photographic representations of children who grow up surrounded by violence. What can those images teach us about the ways that children respond to their environments?

This essay is an example of ‘visual sociology,’ which involves the use of images as data for sociological analysis. What are some of the strengths and limitations of this approach for studying social interaction?