**Writing Assignment:**

*Write a paragraph to explain how the author’s use of diction, detail and/or imagery creates a complex tone.*

**Model**

In her memoir *First They Killed My Father*, Loung Ung uses **details** such as “thunder of engines” and “spitting out dirt and engine smoke” to describe the alien vehicles arriving in Ung’s village; these details create a fearful and uncertain tone of what is to come. While Ung is outside playing, she is halted by the “thunder of engines” arriving. The sound of thunder can often be scary for a young child—it is loud and unnerving, and we are uncertain when it will happen. Ung uses the word “thunder” to describe how a child might experience these loud trucks coming into the village (Ung 17). In addition, Ung uses “spitting out dirt and engine smoke” to aid the reader in experiencing these mysterious vehicles from the eyes of a child. Spitting is often viewed as a dirty action, and this detail could be symbolic of the “pollution” entering the village. By employing these details, Ung creates a tone of fear and uncertainty, which is even more effective when done through the eyes of a child.