In Apache Kafka, the concept of a "Retry Topic" is not a built-in feature of Kafka itself, but rather a pattern or strategy that can be implemented by consumer applications to handle message retries.

When implementing a retry mechanism in a Kafka consumer, the consumer application typically follows these steps:

1. **Message Processing:** The consumer receives a message from a Kafka topic and processes it.
2. **Processing Failure:** If the processing of the message fails (e.g., due to an exception), the consumer can decide to retry processing the message.
3. **Retry Logic:** The consumer application implements retry logic, which could involve retrying immediately, retrying after a delay, or using a more sophisticated retry strategy.
4. **Retry Topic:** If the consumer decides to retry processing the message, it can publish the message to a "Retry Topic." This topic can be a separate topic specifically for retrying failed messages.
5. **Consuming from Retry Topic:** Another instance of the consumer or a different consumer group can consume messages from the Retry Topic and attempt to process them again.

It's important to note that the implementation of a Retry Topic and the logic for consuming from it are part of the consumer application's responsibility and are not built into Kafka itself.