

The Vampire

The night is still and sombre,
and in the murky gloom,
arisen from his slumber,
the vampire leaves his tomb.

His eyes are pools of fire,
his skin is icy white,
and blood his one desire
this woebegotten night.

Then through the silent city,
he makes his silent way,
prepared to take no pity
upon his hapless prey.

An open window beckons,
he grins a hungry grin,
and pausing no one second
he swiftly climbs within.

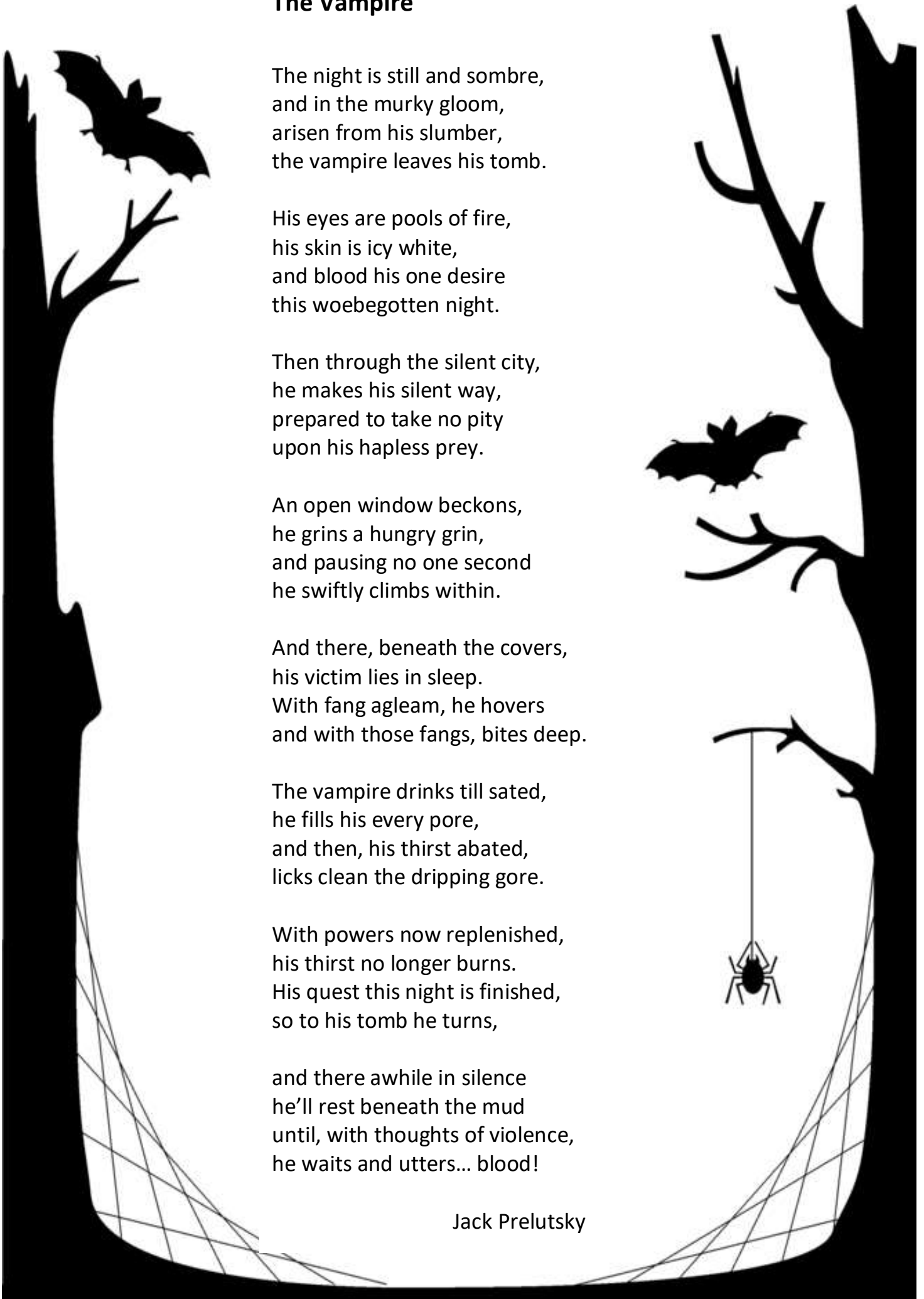
And there, beneath the covers,
his victim lies in sleep.
With fang a gleam, he hovers
and with those fangs, bites deep.

The vampire drinks till sated,
he fills his every pore,
and then, his thirst abated,
licks clean the dripping gore.

With powers now replenished,
his thirst no longer burns.
His quest this night is finished,
so to his tomb he turns,

and there awhile in silence
he'll rest beneath the mud
until, with thoughts of violence,
he waits and utters... blood!

Jack Prelutsky



The Vampire

What type of atmosphere is the poet creating in the first stanza? Use a quotation in your answer.

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What metaphor does the poet use in the second stanza? Write it out and explain why it is used.

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What repetition can you find in the third stanza? Write it out and explain why it is used.

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What does “fills his every pore” suggest about the vampire?

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What does “his thirst no longer burns” suggest about how the vampire feels? How does this relate to the metaphor in the second stanza?

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The poem has a strong rhythm. Why? How does it relate to the topic?

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