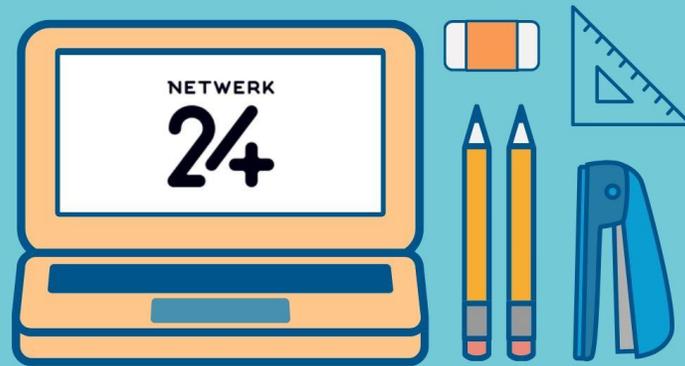


#MYSKOOL

AANLYN HULP

vir matrieke



ENGELS



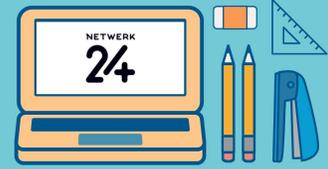
Poetry: Captive

CAPTIVE BY FRANCIS CAREY SLATE

Type of poem: Free verse

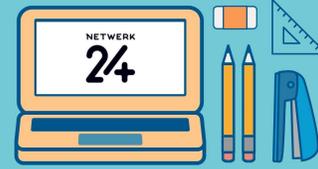
Mood: Anxious; nostalgic, anxious

Theme: Captivity as the mine-labourer is captive to his work. He needs the money to send home so that his family can survive. He is captive to the life that he is living. He has no choice to better himself, get an education, and better job. Captive to the fever and illness that is causing him to hallucinate and imagine he is back home.



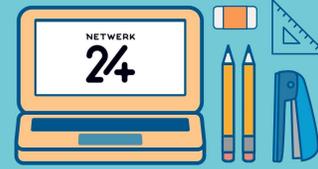
Poetry: Captive

As a wild bird caught in a slip-knot snare-
The plaited tail-hairs of a dun-coloured cow,
Almost invisible-
So, tethered in the toils of fever, do I lie
And burn and shiver while I listen to the buzzing
Of flies that flutter vainly
Against cold, hard, deceiving window-panes:
Like them would I escape, and escaping hasten
To my home that shines in a valley afar,
My home – brightest tooth in the jaws of distance.



Poetry: Captive

There, now, the cows I love are feeding
In some quiet sun-washed vale;
Their lazy shadows drink the sunlight
Rippling on the grasses;
There, through the long day, girls and women
Among the mealies chant and hoe,
Their swinging hoes are like the glitter
Of sunshine on water;
There, now, shouting, happy herdboys,
While they watch the cattle browse,
Are busy moulding mimic cattle
From clay moist and yellow.



Poetry: Captive

There, when the sun has folded his wings that dazzle,
And has sunken to his hidden nest beyond the hills,
All shall group together gaily, around the crackling fires,
And chew the juicy cud of gathered day;
And greybeards shall tell stories of ancient battles,
And cattle-races of the days of old,
Of hunters, bold and fearless, who faced the lion's thunder
And stalked the lightning leopard to his lair.
– But here I burn and shiver and listen to the buzzing
Of flies against deceiving window-panes.



Captive

As a wild bird caught in a slip-knot-snare-



Simile: the poet compares himself to a wild bird, wanting freedom from the situation that he is in.

The slip knot is easily undone by pulling the tail (working end). In this example it is used as a snare or trap that is not meant to harm the bird rather to hold it still.

Wild: significant the bird is supposed to be free

The plaited tail-hairs of a dun-coloured cow,



The image of the cow doesn't seem to fit the simile, the poet uses this line to show that the mine-labourer is fading in and out of thought and reality. He is thinking back constantly to his childhood home.

Dun coloured means brownish. The snare was made from the tail hairs of a brown cow so that the birds don't see it



Poetry: Captive

<p>Almost invisible-</p>	<p>The repetition of the 't' highlights how the fever has trapped him and he feels there is no way out. The snare is almost invisible because it is the same colour as the ground</p>
<p>So, tethered in the toils of fever, do I lie</p> 	<p>Simile: he is tied (tethered) in the net (toils) of fever. His fever (sickness) ties him to his bed and prevents him from going home. The fever is like a net that ties him to his bed.</p>
<p>And burn and shiver while I listen to the buzzing</p>	<p>'Buzzing' is an example of onomatopoeia. He burns and shivers because of the fever</p>



Poetry: Captive

Of flies that flutter vainly

Alliteration: Perhaps imitating the sound of flies thumping against the window.
Vainly: with no result/ uselessly.

Against cold, hard, deceiving window-panes:

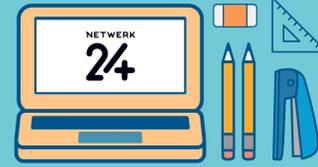


Personification: Window panes are personified as deceptive persons (liars).
The window-panes are deceiving because even though they can see freedom they cannot leave. The window-panes are personified with human emotions emphasising the hopelessness. They are clear- the flies don't know they're there.
He can see outside and dream of leaving



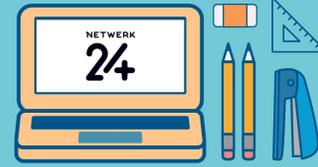
Poetry: Captive

<p>Like them would I escape, and escaping hasten</p>	<p>Simile: 'Them' refers to the wild bird and the flies that he is compared to. 'Escape' is repeated to highlight the importance of freedom. Inversion: I would escape like them</p>
<p>To my home that shines in a valley afar,</p> 	<p>Alliteration: Hasten home uses consonance to link these words, the place he wants to rather be. His home is so important that it shines, like a guiding light. Afar: Only distance stops him from going home.</p>
<p>My home – brightest tooth in the jaws of distance</p> 	<p>Metaphor: Home is compared to the 'brightest tooth' ; distance is compared to jaws- jaws are dangerous, they bite and eat things. Just like distance makes things disappear. Notice the hyphens that add rhythm to the poem, slows the readers down to imagine the contrast between him and his freedom.</p>



Poetry: Captive

<p>There, now, the cows I love are feeding</p>	<p>There: The scene (setting) has changed from the hospital to his home. He imagines his home. Cows are symbolic of a simple farm life which is what the poet longs for.</p>
<p>In some quiet sun-washed vale;</p> 	<p>Vale: Valley</p> <p>Sibilance: repetition of S: Slows the tempo of the poem, enhances peacefulness.</p> <p>Washed: as though the sun's rays are liquid washing the entire valley. Soaking through like water.</p>
<p>Their lazy shadows drink the sunlight</p> 	<p>Personification: Shadows are personified in the contrast of drinking 'light' this adds a dappled effect to the darkness. Shadows absorb sunlight- like drinking it.</p>
<p>Rippling on the grasses;</p> 	<p>It looks as though the sunlight is liquid on the grass.</p>



Poetry: Captive

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Poetry: Captive

<p>There, through the long day, girls and women</p>	<p>Alliteration: Soft, slow, lazy sound</p>
<p>Among the mealies chant and hoe,</p> 	<p>Each member of the community has tasks to complete and a role that helps the community.</p> <p>Chant: Repetitive song</p> <p>Hoe: dig (cultivate land)</p> <p>The fact that they chant while they work, means they are happy to do the work.</p>
<p>Their swinging hoes are like the glitter</p> 	<p>Simile: When the sun shines on the hoe it glitters, it's compared to 'sunshine on the water'.</p>
<p>Of sunshine on water;</p> 	<p>Sunshine glitters on water, just like on steel</p>



Poetry: Captive

There, now, shouting, happy herdboys,



Alliteration: h= peaceful sound. Once again the happiness of the people is emphasized.

While they watch the cattle browse,

Alliteration: w= peaceful sound.

Notice the repeated mention of **cattle**, this is the foundation of rural life.

Are busy molding mimic cattle



Imitation; The boys are making cattle from mud.

The herdboys are even moulding cows from clay showing their early fascination in cattle.

From the clay moist and yellow

Blue highlighted words: all have to do with water. Water is very important in rural life. As long as there is water, they will prosper.



Poetry: Captive

There where the sun has folded his wings that
dazzle,



Metaphor: The sun is compared to a bird,
because its rays look like wings

Dazzle: they are bright

And has sunken to his hidden nest beyond the
hills,



Extended metaphor: the sun is still compared
to a bird settling into its nest behind the hills



Poetry: Captive

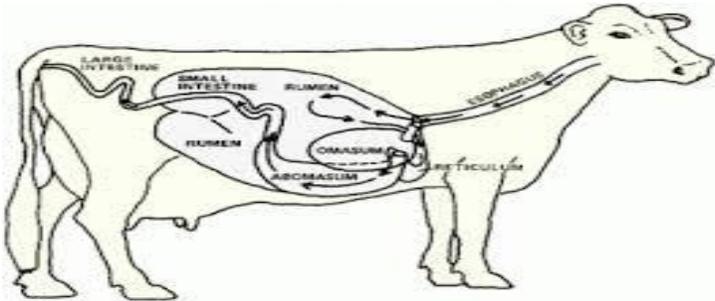
All shall group together gaily, around the crackling fires,



The community gathers together. Everyone is happy, they work during the day and gather around fires during the evening

Onomatopoeia: crackling imitates the sound of fires

And chew the juicy cud of gathered day;



To chew the cud is an idiom meaning to think carefully about something. Cud is the food regurgitated from the stomach to the mouth of a ruminant animal such as a cow and chewed again. The poet repeats the cattle imagery.

Metaphor: to talk about your day



Poetry: Captive

And **greybeards** shall tell stories of ancient battles,



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Greybeards refers to the elders of tribe who usually led in story-telling and passing down of tribal wisdom.

And cattle-races of the days of old,



Inversion: The old days instead of the days of old.



Poetry: Captive

Of hunters, **bold** and fearless, who faced the lion's thunder



Thunder refers to the lion's roar and power.
Description of the bravery of their ancestors
Bold = brave

And stalked the **lightning** leopard to his **lair**.



lightning has a double meaning: continuing on from the previous line the leopard is the lightning to the lion's thunder. They both form a storm in the animal kingdom and are to be feared. The other meaning is very quick.
Alliteration: Emphasizes the speed of the leopard.



Poetry: Captive

<p>– But here I burn and shiver and listen to the buzzing</p>	<p>The last two lines are repeated from the first stanza. This brings the readers to a sudden realisation that the mine-labourer is not actually at home but rather looking to escape from his fever and illness that is holding him captive.</p> <p>The dash indicates a break in thought</p>
<p>Of flies against deceiving window-panes.</p>	<p>The scene shifts back to the hospital bed. Like waking up from a wonderful dream. He is back in reality: trapped.</p>