

Stories for Lipreading



Waiting by Pat Kelly - Setting the Scene

This lyrical piece is set during the First World War. A mother has a restless night dreaming about her son at 'The Front'. She wakes and recalls his recent visit home for Christmas and the items she had put in his Christmas stocking.

Helpful Vocabulary and Phrases

Last night
Moonlight slicing through a gap in the curtains
Smiled at me
A kiss
Arms wide, I embraced emptiness
John snuffled
Sleeping bear
Treeless wilderness
Feet sank deep into oozing slime
A poisonous miasma hung in the air
Scorching lungs
Ears ached
Invisible guns
Daylight ungluing my gritty eyelids
Christmas
War had hardened
Spiders' webs
Encircled eyes
Horror
Black curls
Velvet of dark stubble
Ugly cap
Lice
Smell of decay
Hanging outside on the line
Dangling stiff, cold
Clasped it to me
Stocking
Utilitarian
Contorted
Socks
Knitted him a balaclava
Toe contained
New penny
Tree in the garden
Like a miser

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Bright as a rosy gem
Blue tissue and hidden it in the larder
Tea cooling
Reluctant
Rat-a-tat-tat ricocheted
Incongruous the colour was