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| **ROACHES** **Poetry Review Name:** |

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| **Roaches**  Last night when I got up  to let the dog out I spied  a cockroach in the bathroom  crouched flat on the cool  porcelain,  delicate  antennae probing the toothpaste cap  and feasting himself on a gob  of it in the bowl:  I killed him with one unprofessional  blow,  scattering arms and legs  and half his body in the sink...  I would have no truck with roaches,  crouched like lions in the ledges of sewers  their black eyes in the darkness  alert for tasty slime,  breeding quickly and without design,  laboring up drainpipes through filth  to the light;  I read once they are among  the most antediluvian of creatures,  surviving everything, and in more primitive times  thrived to the size of your hand...  yet when sinking asleep  or craning at the stars,  I can feel their light feet  probing in my veins,  their whiskers nibbling  the insides of my toes;  and neck arched,  feel their patient scrambling  up the dark tubes of my throat.  --Peter Wild | **Vocabulary**  Predicted Meaning | **Definition** | **Connotation** |
| **Spied (line 2):** I think this means to see something that is hard to see | Watched secretly | **(-) Negative**  Being secretly watched doesn’t sound good and it led to the roach’s gross death! |
| **Crouched:** |  |  |
| **Probing:** |  |  |
| **Gob:** |  |  |
| **Truck:** |  |  |
| **Antediluvian (line 22):** I have never seen this word. Maybe it means hard or sturdy? | Before the deluge (flood in the Bible). So, it means ancient or really old. | **(+) Positive**  It sounds like roaches are survivors. |
| **Primitive:** |  |  |

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| **Vocabulary**  Predicted Meaning | **Definition** | **Connotation** |
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| **Write your Summary of “Roaches” below.**  **W5 Summary –** Asummary that answers the following questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why?  **Acrostic Poem –** A poem in which the first letter of each line spells out a word or phrase. |

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| **from Nursery Rhymes for the Tender-hearted**  Scuttle, scuttle, little roach-  How you run when I approach:  Up above the pantry shelf  Hastening\* to secrete\* yourself.  Most adventurous of vermin\*,  How I wish I could determine  How you spend your hours of ease,  Perhaps reclining on the cheese.  Cook has gone, and all is dark-  Then the kitchen is your park;  In the garbage heap that she leaves  Do you browse among the tea leaves?  How delightful to suspect  All the places you have trekked:  Does your long antenna whisk its  Gentle tip across the biscuits?  Do you linger, little soul,  Drowsing in our sugar bowl?  Or, abandonment most utter\*,  Shake a shimmy on the butter?  Do you chant your simple tunes  Swimming in the baby's prunes?  Then, when dawn comes, do you slink  Homeward to the kitchen sink?  Timid roach, why be so shy?  We are brothers, thou and I,  In the midnight, like yourself,  I explore the pantry shelf!  -Christopher Morley | **Literary Term** | **Text Example** | **The Effect** |
| **End Rhyme** |  | The end rhyme gives the poem a playful, lighthearted rhythm |
| **Alliteration** |  |  |
| **Metaphor** |  |  |
| **Imagery** |  |  |
| **Repetition** |  |  |

**\*hastening:** hurrying

**\*secrete:** hide

**\*vermin:** gross insect

**\*utter:** total; complete

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| **Write your Summary of “Roaches” below.** |

**WRITE YOUR OWN!**

**Your Task:** On a separate sheet of paper, write your own roach poem from the perspective of a roach. Your poem should be in the **first person point of view**. Your poem can be free verse (a poem without a regular rhyme scheme or pattern) like Wild’s or it can have a rhyme scheme like Morley’s. Refer to the must haves and guiding questions below.

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|  | **MUST HAVES:**  -at least 12 lines  -use 3 literary devices (simile, metaphor, alliteration, repetition, hyperbole, onomatopoeia)  -highlight at least three words that help convey your tone  -write the tone at the bottom  -make it neat |  | **Guiding Questions:**  \*What does your roach have to say about humans? Other roaches? Food? His/her own life? Roach traps?  \*Will your poem be in response to one of the roach poems we have read?  \*Is your roach liked or hated by humans? |