Night Shapes

Outside is full of cats and darkness,

Howling screeches and thick black stillness,

Things creeping silently,

Bats shuddering restlessly,

Owls hooting,

Moles rooting.

Outside is full of black shapes moving,

Shadows weird and slowly passing,

Things watching the dark,

Eyes looking for work,

Figures stealing

Night brooding.

Outside is full of people dreaming,

Hoping, muttering, turning, scheming,

Ideas moving in the mind,

Voices uttering no sound

Time slipping,

Dawn looming.

Paddy Kinsale

**Night Shapes**

1. What do 'thick black stillness', 'creeping silently' and 'Shadows weird' tell you about the poet's attitude to night time?

2. What do you think are the 'Things watching in the dark'?

3. What do you think the poet's attitude is to the people who are outside at night?

4. Explain the meaning of these verbs as the poet has used them in the poem:

stealing brooding looming