

Tommy's Little Battle

Part I

Drip, drip, drip,
Drummed the tap downstairs.
Beating on a tin drum,
Awaking old nightmares.

Tommy's eyes yawned open,
And he peered into the dark.
'What' on Earth?' he thought at once.
A monster, ghoul or Nark?

Now a Nark's a sort of gremlin,
With a cutlass and a hat.
He dwells there in the kitchen,
Riding Samson, Tommy's cat.

He laps the milk and slaughters mice,
He's fierce and hard to catch.
And in the depths of blackened night,
Tommy heard his sharp claws scratch.

His covers tight around him
Tommy's bed became his cave.
He may be scared, but knew full well,
That darkness, safety gave.

Drip, drip, drip,
The Nark he never died.
And Tommy knew right there, right then,
No place was there to hide.

He took a breath, leapt out of bed,
And grabbed his cricket bat.
The Nark just roared with laughter.
Tom now wore his baseball hat.

So Tom was dressed for warfare,
And his battle could now commence.
Braver than a lion,
He could hurdle any fence.

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Glossary

Word	Definition
gremlin	a mischievous sprite or little monster
cutlass	a short sword with a curved blade

Vocabulary Starter

Word	Definition
commence	
warfare	
Nark	

1

Read the title of the poem. Do you think the main character will be young or old? Why?

2

Read line 1 out loud. Did you read it quickly or slowly? Why?

3

Why is this idea repeated in verse 3?

4

Where is Tommy during the poem? Tick one.

The kitchen

The bathroom

His bedroom

5

How do you know this?

6

When Tommy woke up did he do so quickly or slowly? **Find and copy** the phrase in verse 2 which tells you.

7

What does Tommy do in verse 5 that suggests he is scared?

8

In verse 7 the poet changes Tommy's name to Tom. Why does the poet do this? What does it tell us about Tommy's character?

**Extension
activity**

I know Tommy has a strong imagination because _____

Tommy thinks there's a nark in his room but _____

What do you think might happen in Part 2? _____
