

Bat

A bat is born
Naked and blind and pale
His mother makes a pocket of her tail
And catches him. He clings to her long fur
By his thumbs and toes and teeth.
And then the mother dances through the night
Doubling and looping, soaring, somersaulting –
Her baby hangs on underneath.
All night, in happiness, she hunts and flies.
Her high sharp cries
Like shining needlepoints of sound
Go out into the night and echoing back,
Tell her what they have touched.
She hears how far it is, how big it is,
Which way it's going:
She lives by hearing.
The mother eats the moths and gnats she catches
In full flight; in full flight.
The mother drinks the water of the pond
She skims across. Her baby hangs on tight.
Her baby drinks the milk she makes him.
In moonlight or starlight, in midair.
Their single shadow, printed on the moon
Or fluttering across the stars,
Whirls on all night; at daybreak,
The tired mother flaps home to her rafter.
The others all are there.
They hang themselves up by their toes,
They wrap themselves in their brown wings.
Bunched upside-down, they sleep in air.
Their sharp ears, their sharp teeth their quick sharp faces
Are dull and slow and mild.
All the bright day, as the mother sleeps,
She folds her wings about her sleeping child.

– *Randall Jarrell*

Imagery Poem

Write a poem about an animal, carefully selecting images and similes to influence the reader's feelings. Choose an animal for which you have some strong feelings. You might write to make the reader feel as you do about that animal, or you might write two short poems about the same creature, one showing positive images and emotions towards the chosen animal, one with negative images. Use as many senses as possible in describing your choice.

Title: _____

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