

# The Malfeasance

**Little  
Malfeasance  
Glossary**

**Mini Book One**



**Little  
Malfeasance  
Glossary**

**Mini Book Two**



Minibooks with guides to the poems, a Bingo Game and a Connect Four Game in development.

# The Malfeasance

## Work in progress

Schools in Rochdale are using Alan Bold's poem as part of a reading/writing scheme, so Erica Field was bestirred to provide accessible resources and since we love working with Rochdale, we agreed to help. We have come up with a pair of mini book glossaries to support access to the vocabulary and the imagery of the poem. We have two mini books to try out and maybe an extra one will be added. We also have a bingo game like simile bingo: two boards and two sets of matching cards. This could also be made into a bingo game.

Working on the poem reminded us of other monster poems: some frivolous and some deeper, like Robert Graves' Welsh Incident. It also invited work on building vocabulary around words of motion. So far here are two glossing minibooks and a bingo activity going a little beyond the poem. We also have a monsters in motion activity in the pipeline so do take a look at it on our work in progress page. We may use our alien drawings produced for us in Nottingham schools about ten years ago and we hope you will send us yours.

## The Malfeasance

It was a dark, dank, dreadful night  
And while millions were abed  
The Malfeasance bestirred itself  
And raised its ugly head.

The leaves dropped quietly in the night,  
In the sky Orion shone;  
The Malfeasance bestirred itself  
Then crawled around till dawn.

Taller than a chimney stack,  
More massive than a church,  
It slithered to the city  
With a purpose and lurch.

Squelch, squelch, the scaly feet  
Flapped along the roads;  
Nothing like it had been seen  
Since the recent fall of the toads.

Bullets bounced off the beast,  
Aircraft made it grin,  
Its open mouth made an eerie sound  
Uglier than sin.

Still it floundered onwards,  
Still the city reeled;  
There was panic on the pavements,  
Even policemen squealed.

Then suddenly someone suggested  
(As the beast had done no harm)  
It would be kinder to show it kindness  
Better to stop the alarm.

When they offered it refreshment  
The creature stopped in its track;  
When they waved a greeting to it  
Steam rose from its back.

As the friendliness grew firmer  
The problem was quietly solved:  
Terror turned to triumph and  
The Malfeasance dissolved.

And where it stood there hung a mist,  
And in its wake a shining trail,  
And the people found each other  
And thereby hangs a tail.

Alan Bold.

# Some other monster poems - please share your favourites.

The Mattress Factory Superstore  
is owned by dear old Fred,  
or, as he's better known,  
the Monster Underneath Your Bed.

His beds are cold and clammy  
just the way a monster likes.  
He also offers beds of nails  
and mattresses with spikes.

His waterbeds are filled with sharks,  
piranhas, eels, and squids.  
But, just in case, Fred also carries  
comfy beds for kids.

And Fred makes sure that every mattress  
always feels alright  
by checking every bed he sells you  
EVERY SINGLE NIGHT.

Kenn Nesbitt

# Welsh Incident

'But that was nothing to what things came out  
From the sea-caves of Criccieth yonder.'

'What were they? Mermaids? dragons? ghosts?'

'Nothing at all of any things like that.'

'What were they, then?'

'All sorts of queer things,

Things never seen or heard or written about,  
Very strange, un-Welsh, utterly peculiar  
Things. Oh, solid enough they seemed to touch,  
Had anyone dared it. Marvellous creation,  
All various shapes and sizes, and no sizes,  
All new, each perfectly unlike his neighbour,  
Though all came moving slowly out together.'  
'Describe just one of them.'

'I am unable.'

'What were their colours?'

'Mostly nameless colours,

Colours you'd like to see; but one was puce  
Or perhaps more like crimson, but not purplish.  
Some had no colour.'

'Tell me, had they legs?'

'Not a leg or foot among them that I saw.'

'But did these things come out in any order?'

What o'clock was it? What was the day of the week?

Who else was present? How was the weather?'

'I was coming to that. It was half-past three  
On Easter Tuesday last. The sun was shining.  
The Harlech Silver Band played Marchog Jesu  
On thirty-seven shimmering instruments  
Collecting for Caernarvon's (Fever) Hospital Fund.  
The populations of Pwllheli, Criccieth,  
Portmadoc, Borth, Tremadoc, Penrhyndeudraeth,  
Were all assembled. Criccieth's mayor addressed them  
First in good Welsh and then in fluent English,  
Twisting his fingers in his chain of office,  
Welcoming the things. They came out on the sand,  
Not keeping time to the band, moving seaward  
Silently at a snail's pace. But at last  
The most odd, indescribable thing of all  
Which hardly one man there could see for wonder  
Did something recognizably a something.'  
'Well, what?'

'It made a noise.'

'A frightening noise?'

'No, no.'

'A musical noise? A noise of scuffling?'

'No, but a very loud, respectable noise ---  
Like groaning to oneself on Sunday morning  
In Chapel, close before the second psalm.'

'What did the mayor do?'

'I was coming to that.'

Robert Graves



Mini Book One

# Little Malfesance Glossary



dark, dank  
November night

No sun, no heat, no light,  
November  
What is the best way to describe  
this month?



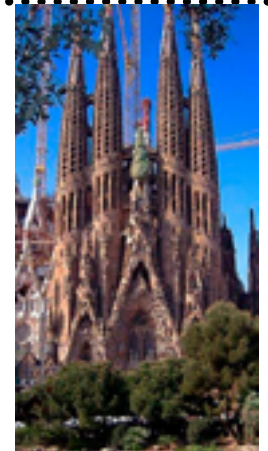
bestirred monster

What is the best way to waku up a  
monster



In the sky Orion  
shone

Why is this constellation which appears  
in November called the Hunter



Taller than a chimney  
stack,  
More massive than a  
church..

How tall is the tallest chimney?



fall of the toads

Where did it rain frogs or toads  
recently?



Squelch with scaly feet

What brown, grey wet thing needs to  
help scaly feet make a squelch?



It slithered .....With  
a purpose and lurch.

Snakes slither but lurch is a quick  
surprise move to the left or to the  
.....?





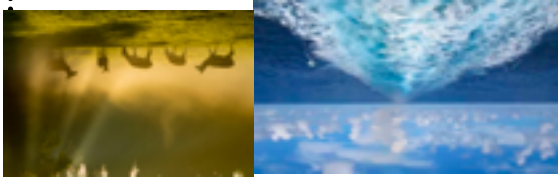
Mini Book Two

# Little Malfesance Glossary



**bullets bounced**

Do bullets bounce off a bulletproof vest?



**The Malfesance dissolved**

Sugar  
dissolves in  
water. What  
else?



**in its wake a shining trail**



**an eerie sound**

Eirie sounds make you flesh .....?  
Eirie sounds make your heart -----  
----faster.

**Aircraft made it grin**

What makes a monster bombproof?



**they offered it  
refreshment**

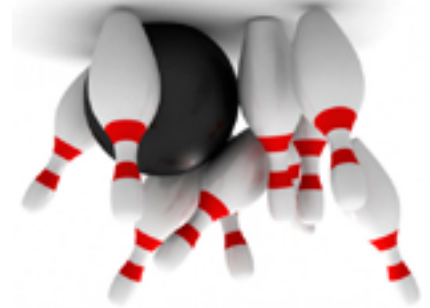
Do monsters drink tea or coffee?



**it floundered onwards**

A flatfish flaps and also .....  
sideways and up and down.  
Can you find a video of a flounder  
swimming?

Reeling is going backwards very fast  
when hit, like these skittles.



**the city reeled**

# How to play Malfaissance Motion Bingo

This game is for two or two pairs of players. Each player/team has a bingo board with motion descriptions.

Malfaissance Motion Bingo

moving very quietly	moving like a snake	starting to move
moving fast	moving suddenly to the left or right	moving very noisily

You also have a set of 12 small “situation” cards. These should be spread out face down on your table.

Players take turns to pick a up a small card and read out what is on it. If they can cover a motion description on their board they can do so, but every player must agree that it is a good decision.



Walking on tip toe

If they can't cover a picture, they must replace the card exactly where it came from.

The first player/team to cover all the motions on their board is the winner.



Malffeasance Motion Bingo Board

<p>moving very quietly</p>	<p>moving like a snake</p>	<p>starting to move</p>
<p>moving fast</p>	<p>moving suddenly to the left or right</p>	<p>moving very noisily</p>

Set 1

Set 1 Malffeasance Motion Bingo Cards



Walking on tip toe



the tracks of a side-winder snake



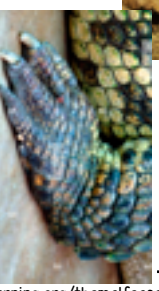
The Malffeasance bestirred itself And raised its ugly head.



Running a race



It slithered .....With a purpose and lurch.



Squelch with scaly feet

Malfaissance Motion Bingo Board

<p>moving up and down</p>	<p>moving very very fast</p>	<p>moving low down</p>
<p>moving very slowly</p>	<p>moving from side to side</p>	<p>stopping moving</p>

Set2

Set2 Malfaissance Motion Bingo Cards



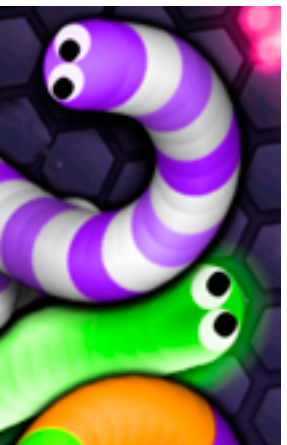
it floundered onwards



a sloth climbing.



Billy Whizz



It slithered .....With  
a purpose and lurch.



The  
Malfaissance.....  
crawled around  
till dawn.



Billy Whizz