



Lullaby – The Cure – Notes



- **Activity types:** Lexical set, listening for specific words, gap fill
- **Theme:** Hallowe'en, being scared
- **Level:** Pre-Intermediate / Intermediate
- **Notes:** This 1989 hit is based on a recurring nightmare singer Robert Smith had as a child where he was eaten by a giant spider - he says the song is about the fear of sleep. He called it Lullaby because many lullabies have tragic endings. The 1990 Brit award winning music video was inspired by David Lynch's 1977 debut horror movie Eraserhead. (www.songfacts.com)

1. Ask students if they know what a lullaby is. Do they know any in English?
2. Give each student a copy of the folded worksheet and ask them to look at (and listen to, if possible) the lullaby. Does it have a happy ending?
3. Ask students to work alone, in pairs or small groups to write as many words as they can that relate to Hallowe'en, and being scared. Give them one minute. This can also be a competition.
(Note: the first minute of the song is instrumental – you can play this as background music.)
4. Ask students to unfold the worksheet and ask them to look at the list of words – are any of these on their lists? Feedback.
5. Play the song – students complete the gaps. Note that the not all the words are sung clearly, so be patient. Allow students to compare, then play the song again.
6. Feedback. **Key:** See Complete lyrics.
7. **Grammar work:**
 - Ask students to circle all the gerunds, underline the present simple verbs and comparatives.
 - Can they find the passive sentence and specify the tense.
 - What effect do they think the words, punctuation and tenses used give?
8. **Follow up:**
Ask students to watch the video and write a short paragraph to describe its scenes and story. Do they like it? Which feelings or thoughts did they have while watching it?

Complete Lyrics:

On candy stripe legs the **spiderman** comes
Softly through the **shadow** of the **evening** sun
Stealing past the windows of the blissfully **dead**
Looking for the **victim shivering** in **bed**
Searching out **fear** in the gathering **gloom** and
Suddenly
A **movement** in the corner of the room
And there is nothing I can do
When I realize with **fright**
That the **spiderman** is having me for dinner tonight

Quietly he laughs and shaking his head
Creeps closer now
Closer to the foot of the **bed**
And softer than **shadow** and quicker than flies
His arms are all around me and his tongue in my eyes
Be still be calm be **quiet** now my precious boy
Don't **struggle** like that or I will only love you more
For it's much too **late** to get away or turn on the **light**
The **spiderman** is having you for dinner tonight
And I feel like I'm being eaten
By a thousand million **shivering** furry **holes**
And I know that in the morning I will wake up
In the **shivering cold**
And the **spiderman** is always hungry



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Look at this lullaby:

Rock-a-bye baby, on the treetop
 When the wind blows, the cradle will rock
 When the bough breaks, the cradle will fall
 And down will come baby, cradle and all

FOLD

Complete the song with the following words:

bed – cold – creeps – dead – evening – fear – fright – gloom – holes – late – light movement – quiet
 – quietly – shadow – shivering – spiderman – stealing – struggle – victim

On candy stripe legs the _____ comes
 Softly through the _____ of the _____ sun
 _____ past the windows of the blissfully _____
 Looking for the _____ _____ in _____
 Searching out _____ in the gathering _____ and
 Suddenly
 A _____ in the corner of the room
 And there is nothing I can do
 When I realize with _____
 That the _____ is having me for dinner tonight

_____ he laughs and shaking his head
 _____ closer now
 Closer to the foot of the _____
 And softer than _____ and quicker than flies
 His arms are all around me and his tongue in my eyes
 Be still be calm be _____ now my precious boy
 Don't _____ like that or I will only love you more
 For it's much too _____ to get away or turn on the _____
 The _____ is having you for dinner tonight
 And I feel like I'm being eaten
 By a thousand million _____ furry _____
 And I know that in the morning I will wake up
 In the _____
 And the _____ is always hungry

