

## Task for *Vampyre*

### Transcript of the story

**1.**

I am Vampyre.

Feared.

Despised.

I live in darkness.

I long for the light.

**2.**

Fully grown,

I am now expected  
to embrace my role.

Attack.

Kill.

**3.**

I loved being a child –  
waking at dusk,  
riding on my father's shoulders,

**4.**

playing hide-and-seek in the dark,  
swimming in the river at midnight.

**5.**

I loved being a boy –  
roaming the moonlit fields,  
throwing bread to the birds,  
mingling with herds of red deer.

**6.**

Birds shun me now,  
deer vanish into the forest.

**7.**

And in the villages,  
men keep watch  
with sharpened stakes.

I am Vampyre.  
Feared.  
Despised.  
I live in darkness.  
I long for the light.

**8.**

I repudiate my ancestry,  
my destiny.  
My brothers and sisters argue,  
my mother cries,  
my father threatens.

**9.**

Late one afternoon  
I creep outside,  
raise my face to the sun,  
hold out my hands.

**10.**

My head hurts  
my body writhes.  
Cursing, my father dashes out  
and pulls me back.

**11.**

I am ill for three days,  
My mother feeds me broth.  
My father belts me with words.  
My brothers and sisters tiptoe past.

**12.**

I am Vampyre.  
Feared.  
Despised.  
While the others sleep,  
I wait for midday.

**13.**

The sun blazes.  
I run into the light.

**14.**

Deep in the abyss,  
I am clambering –  
hands bleeding,  
feet frantic.  
Nothing here –  
not ant, worm, root.  
Only molten rock  
and fiery breath  
at the back of my neck.

**15.**

I emerge, scorched,  
bone bleached.  
Every muscle, every nerve screams.

I weep.

**16.**

In the forest,  
the deer are waiting for me,  
their eyes soft, trusting.

The birds sing.