



by James McLean

the night watch

after doing a graveyard shift
in the rail yards at 40 below
with the steam frozen around my parka
like a second skin
the cold settles in my bones
and chaps my wrists raw
so when the day boys finally start to roll in
I'm grateful almost to the point of weary tears
and I remember from high school how well
Shakespeare made the guard in Hamlet say

*For this relief much thanks 'tis bitter cold
and I am sick at heart*

What kind of person do you imagine the speaker to be? Why would the speaker feel it appropriate to refer to Francisco's speech from Act One to describe his situation.

Write your own poem similar to McLean's in style and length using any quotation from Act One as a springboard for your writing.