

## 'Mr Bleaney' by Philip Larkin

British English 

Transcription taken from

**PhonetiBlog - Jack Windsor Lewis phonetic blog**

<http://www.yek.me.uk/archive32.html#blog318> (visited 25-May-12)

### Make a phonemic (broad) transcription of the first five stanzas of 'Mr Bleaney':

'This was Mr Bleaney's room. He stayed  
The whole time he was at the Bodies, till  
They moved him.' Flowered curtains, thin and frayed,  
Fall to within five inches of the sill,

Whose window shows a strip of building land,  
Tussocky, littered. 'Mr Bleaney took  
My bit of garden properly in hand.'  
Bed, upright chair, sixty-watt bulb, no hook

Behind the door, no room for books or bags –  
'I'll take it.' So it happens that I lie  
Where Mr Bleaney lay, and stub my fags  
On the same saucer-souvenir, and try

Stuffing my ears with cotton-wool, to drown  
The jabbering set he egged her on to buy.  
I know his habits – what time he came down,  
His preference for sauce to gravy, why

He kept on plugging at the four aways –  
Likewise their yearly frame: the Frinton folk  
Who put him up for summer holidays,  
And Christmas at his sister's house in Stoke.



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**mɪstə `bli:ni:z**

ˈðɪs wəz mɪstə `bli:ni:z ,ru:m. hi steɪd  
ðə 'həʊl `taɪm hi wəz ət ðə ,bɒdɪz, | tɪl  
ðeɪ `mu:vɪd , (h)ɪm'. flauəd ,kɜ:tɪnz, | 'θɪn | ən ,freɪd,  
,fɔ:l | tə wɪ'ðɪn `faɪv ,ɪnʃɪz | əv ðə ,sɪl,

hu:z ` ,wɪndəʊ 'fəʊz | ə 'stri:p| əv `bɪldɪŋ lænd,  
`tʌsəki, | `lɪtəd. ' ,mɪstə `bli:ni:z | tʊk  
maɪ bɪt əv ` ,gɑ:dn̩ `prɒpəli:z ɪn hænd.'  
,bed, `lpraɪt ,tʃeə, 'sɪksti wɒt bʌlb, | nəʊ `hʊk

bɪhaɪnd ðə ,dɔ:, 'nəʊ ru:m | fə ,bʊks 'ɔ: ,bægz -  
'ɑ:l ,teɪk ɪt.' 'səʊ ɪt 'hæpənɪz| ðət 'aɪ ,laɪ  
w[ɛ:] 'mɪstə bli:ni:z ,leɪ, | ən 'stʌb `maɪ fægz  
ʊn ðə seɪm sɔ:ɪsə su:və ,nɪə, | ən 'traɪ

stʌfɪŋ `maɪ ɪəz wɪð kɒtn ,wʊl,| tə draʊn  
ðə `dʒæbəriŋ `set| `hɪ: egd ər ʊn tə ,baɪ.  
aɪ nəʊ hɪz ( ) `hæbɪts - wɒt `taɪm hi keɪm `daʊn,  
hɪz 'prefərəns fə `sɔ:ɪs tə ,greɪvɪ, | 'waɪ

hi keɪt ʊn `plʌŋɪŋ | ət ðə fɔ:r ə `weɪz -  
'laɪk ,waɪz | ðeə 'jɜ:lɪ `freɪm: |ðə `frɪntən fəʊk  
hu 'pʊt ɪm ʌp fə sʌmə `hɒlədɪz  
ən `krɪsməs | ət ɪz `sɪstəz ,haʊs | ɪn ,stəʊk.

