# Frozen Jews

**Avrom Sutzkever**

Have you seen, in fields of snow,

frozen Jews, row on row?

Blue marble forms lying,

not breathing, not dying.

Somewhere a flicker of a frozen soul -

glint of fish in an icy swell.

All brood. Speech and silence are one.

Night snow encases the sun.

A smile glows immobile

from a rose lip's chill.

Baby and mother, side by side.

Odd that her nipple's dried.

Fist, fixed in ice, of a naked old man:

the power's undone in his hand.

I've sampled death in all guises.

Nothing surprises.

Yet a frost in July in this heat -

a crazy assault in the street.

I and blue carrion, face to face.

Frozen Jews in a snowy space.

Marble shrouds my skin.

Words ebb. Light grows thin.

I'm frozen, I'm rooted in place like the naked

old man enfeebled by ice.

Tone: Hatred

Theme: World War II

Rhythm: Not even, discordant, not a comfortable rhythm, wouldn’t be easy to memorise.

Symbolism:

“Blue marble forms lying” symbolise dead Jews

Rhyme: AABB XXAA XXAA XXAA AABB AAXX

Poem has a vast range of poetic devices, some more obvious than others.

Uses the devices to persuade the reader into feeling the depressive, cold nature of the poem.

AVROM SUTZKEVER

Anti-facist Jewish man

One of “the great Yiddish poets of his generation”

At the age of 2, his family was forced to leave the city in which they were living in Lithuania within 24hours with all the other Jews, after which the city was burned to the ground, as the Russian high command fearing them as German spies.