

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 direct communication...  
 warmth + abundance, but on wisp of winter  
 autumn as Goddess? relig. overtone "bless"  
 Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

\* 3-stanzas of 11-lines each  
 \* rhyme scheme - ABABCDEDCCE  
 called a "variable rhyme scheme"

"To Autumn" by John Keats (1819) (ode)

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
 Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
 Conspiring with him how to load and bless

With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;

To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
 And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;

To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
 With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
 And still more, later flowers for the bees,

Until they think warm days will never cease,  
 For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?  
 Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find  
 Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,  
 Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;

Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,  
 Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook  
 Spars the next swath and all its twined flowers:

And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep  
 Steady thy laden head across a brook;

Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,  
 Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, Where are they?  
 Think not of them, thou hast thy music too—

While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,  
 And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;

Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
 Among the river sallows, borne aloft or sinking  
 As the light wind lives or dies;

And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;  
 Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft  
 The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;

And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

sleepy mood stanza #1

stanza #2 execution of life abruptly ends mood stanza #1

break mythos Cupid + Psyche

stanza #3 nature's creatures

(robins) last line seems (+) but is really (-)

intimate w/ sun  
 sun ages, things die = wisdom symbolic  
 \* elevated style = like a celebration but also lamenting death Autumn brings

energy & beauty life is going to be harvested at its prime  
 stanza 1 = addressing Autumn + her abundance

= sibilance = lit. device strongly stressed consonants are crafted (usually -s- sounds)  
 lots of pollen

free, relaxed but detached  
 autumn personified as fertile, lovely woman charm coexists w/ cruelty

harsh sounds > cacophony  
 only delayed death for flowers; beauty yet destructive/cut down in prime (harvest)

she's immortal/can spare time to watch destruction/cycle  
 sinister; drawn out destruction (sad?)

calling to Autumn > desperation > Spring is gone too/like your season & circular  
 1) clouds = blooming/death dying  
 bloom = life (theme)  
 2) wind = lives > theme  
 wind = died

death imagery  
 autumn's children/innocent/don't know death/winter pain

secretive, hiding something  
 danger in sky = snow/winter pending birds ready to fly south they know what others don't

1. Keats uses **personification**—assigning human characteristics to inanimate objects—to create a portrait of a season. How is autumn characterized? What kind of person might autumn be?

Themes  
 - self-harvesting - resulting in "grain"  
 - Autumn = metaphor = sense of coming of sorrow (seasonal cycle)  
 a abundance vs. loss (death) = mortality = kind + cruel  
 Joy vs. sorrow  
 subtle = troubled attempt to make sense of dying young > consciousness of impending death  
 calmness in suffering > ignorant of doom

"The Last Leaf" by Oliver Wendell Holmes (1831)

I saw him once before,  
 As he passed by the door,  
 And again  
 The pavement stones resound,  
 As he totters o'er the ground  
 With his cane. Age imagery  
 They say that in his prime,  
 Ere the pruning-knife of Time metaphor  
 Cut him down, cuts away selectively  
 Not a better man was found  
 By the Crier on his round  
 Through the town.

But now he walks the streets,  
 And he looks at all he meets  
 Sad and wan, old age imagery  
 And he shakes his feeble head,  
 That it seems as if he said,  
 "They are gone."

The mossy marbles rest cemetary; headstones  
 On the lips that he has prest  
 In their bloom, metaphor for youth

And the names he loved to hear  
 Have been carved for many a year  
 On the tomb.

My grandmamma has said—  
 Poor old lady, she is dead  
 Long ago—

That he had a Roman nose, handsome  
 And his cheek was like a rose simile symbol: passion  
 In the snow; pale/frozen rose in snow can only fade + die

But now his nose is thin,  
 And it rests upon his chin  
 Like a staff, simile / cane = old / age  
 And a crook is in his back, old / age  
 And a melancholy crack cacophony = "k" sound

In his laugh. sad  
 I know it is a sin wears same style clothes when younger  
 For me to sit and grin funny - his old place  
 At him here;

But the old three-cornered hat,  
 And the breeches, and all that,  
 Are so queer! pants

And if I should live to be  
 The last leaf upon the tree speaker compares self to man  
 In the spring, (metaphor)

Let them smile, as I do now, wants to see others smiling/laughing at him than to be alone  
 At the old forsaken bough  
 Where I cling. inspired to be the last leaf + laughed @ - is okay

- Signifies reality of life that many turn away from
- old man is lonely + sad
- tone - sad / lonely walk - no one assist. him
- leaves (2) left = symbol, man's life (aging)
- last of his kind/outlived his generation

\* Major Thomas Melville > subject = honored survivor of Boston Tea Party who refused to change style or manners to fit the time!

\* Contrast how youth views the elderly - judge on looks in light of sadness

\* last leaf in family tree?

contrast bet. youth + age

Youthful justification for actions