

2.5 Autumn

■ ■ ■ Warming up! ■ ■ ■

1. What changes do you see in nature in each of the following seasons? A few sentences are given below as examples. Use these and your own to describe a season appropriately.

- New grass sprouts.
- Tender leaves shoot out on plants or trees.
- Migratory birds return.
- The sun shines brighter than before.
- We see mist in the morning.
- There are sudden showers and hailstorms.
- Trees blossom.



- (a) Name the six seasons according to the Indian calendar. Which of the seasons is equivalent to Autumn?
- (b) What changes do we see in the life of human beings when the season changes? Write with reference to their (a) clothes (b) diet (c) celebrations.
2. Guess what is personified and fill in the gaps. Choose from the brackets. (Sun, alarm, bird, car, wind, stars, machine)
- (a) The weary was also petrol-hungry.
- (b) The playful whistled among the trees.
- (c) The annoying screamed at 5 am.
- (d) The naughty winked at me from above.
- (e) The rising stretched its arms.
- (f) The cheerful sang as it perched on a tree.
- (g) The tireless hummed as it worked hard.

Autumn

- ◆ Why is Autumn called a 'maiden fair'?
- ◆ What is the cooing of birds compared to?
- ◆ How does Autumn dress up at night?

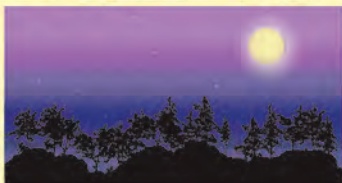
- slender : slim
- diadem : crown
- bars (here) : patches
- ruffles : disturb a smooth surface

THE autumn comes, a maiden fair
In slenderness and grace,
With nodding rice - stems in her hair
And lilies in her face.
In flowers of grasses she is clad;
And as she moves along,
Birds greet her with their cooing glad
Like a bracelet's tinkling song.

A diadem adorns the night !
Of multitudinous stars;
Her silken robe is white moonlight,
Set free from cloudy bars;
And on her face (the radiant moon)
Bewitching smiles are shown :
She seems a slender maid, who soon
Will be a woman grown.

- Kalidas

Translated by Prof. A. W. Ryder



■ ■ ■ ENGLISH WORKSHOP ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

1. Find three lines each, that contain images of nature in the autumn season.

During daytime (1)

(2)

(3)

At night (1)

(2)

(3)

2. Pick out words from the poem that describe the following. List them in Column 'A'. Substitute each of those describing words with another word/phrase of the same meaning.

	A (Poetic words)	B (Your own words)
the 'Autumn'	a maiden fair	
stars		
moonlight		
cooing of birds		

3. Find one example of each of the following from the poem :

- Simile
- Metaphor

4. Write the rhyme scheme of the poem. (Refer to the Language Study pages.)

5. Think and write in your own words.

(a) Why is the maiden Autumn said to wear rice stems in her hair?

(b) How can the tender maiden Autumn become a full grown woman?

What change in nature does this imply?

(c) Why do you think, birds greet the autumn season gladly?



6. Compare the Indian Monsoon season to a powerful king of a prosperous kingdom. Write down a few similarities. Use them to compose a poem of your own.

7. Which is your favourite 'Nature' poem from your mother tongue? Write the poem and try to translate it into English. Your translation can be in the form of a poem or a paraphrase.

8. Read the ode 'To Autumn' by the famous poet John Keats.
'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness...'

