



Autumn, Queen of Year

Read the following poem about autumn, written by a famous poet sometime before she was twelve years old. Her name ends in "Junior"; she was named after her mother.

Note: "Arithmos-rule" has to do with arithmetic and numbers.

Autumn, Queen of Year

by Winifred Sackville Stoner, Jr.

When the pumpkins are so yellow
And the vines with grapes abound,
When the melons are so mellow
And the nuts fall to the ground;
When persimmons lose their bitters,
And the apples are so red;
When we love to eat corn fritters
Since the roasting ears have fled;
When vacation days are over
And the children go to school,
They no longer play in clover,
But much learn "Arithmos-rule,"
When weird Hallowe'en's most naughty elves
With gnomes and sprites appear,
While fat Thanksgiving fills the shelves –
'Tis AUTUMN, QUEEN OF YEAR.

Now it's your turn: Imitate the first eight lines of Winifred's poem. Fill yours with some of your favorite images and scents of autumn and use her rhythm and rhyme pattern.

The words and syllables in bold below are the accented syllables in her poem:

When the **pump**kins are so **yellow**
And the **vines** with grapes **abound**,

Her rhyme pattern is this:

- A (yellow)
- B (abound)
- A (mellow)
- B (ground)
- C (bitters)
- D (red)
- C (fritters)
- D (fled) And so on . . .

Here's my example of an imitation of her first two lines:

When the **days** are growing **cooler**
And the **crickets** slow their **song**,

Feel free to finish your poem, if you wish, to match the length of hers.

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