

MURSHIDABAD ADARSHA MAHAVIDYALAYA

ACADEMIC YEAR-2023-24

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

TEACHER: SUKANTA BARMAN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, STAGE-II

Study materials provided to the CLASS: 4TH SEM DATE: 12/08/2024

Topic of Discussion

To Autumn: John Keats

1. What do you mean by “mists and mellow fruitfulness”?

In John Keats’ “To Autumn”, the season of autumn is described as a season of “mists and mellow fruitfulness”. The meaning of “mists” is fogs or haziness due to a certain condition of weather. The word “fruitfulness” suggests that the entire greenery is full of fruits of different kinds. All these fruits are “mellow”, that is, sweet, rich and delicious. Autumn has been imagined to be an intimate friend of the Sun. Together the Sun and the Autumn “load and bless” the Nature with all kinds of fruits that the poet will mention in a while.

2. What do you mean by the maturing sun?

The sun is called “maturing”, because the sun has the power of creative heat/creativity which helps the fruits to ripen and to be delicious. In other words it can “mature” all the fruits into ripeness. This the Sun does in collaboration with the season Autumn, the poet guesses. They make a “conspiracy” to “load and bless” the Nature with fruits.

3. Explain: load and bless

The meaning of “load and bless” is to fill the nature or the green environment with all kinds of ripe and delicious fruits such as vines (grapes), apples, gourd, hazel shells, etc. Apart from these, flowers are also helped to bloom for the bees and the beehive is made full of honey. The Sun and the Autumn are the active players in the process of “load and bless”.

4. Who is the close bosom friend of the sun and why?

In the poem John Keats “To Autumn”, the season of Autumn is imagined by the poet to be the “close bosom friend” of the sun. Autumn has been imagined to be an intimate friend of the Sun because together the Sun and the Autumn “load and bless” and fill the Nature with all kinds of fruits such as vines (grapes), apples, gourd, hazel shells, etc. Apart from these, flowers are also helped to bloom for the bees and the beehive is made full of honey. Thus, the Sun and the Autumn are the active players in the process of “load and bless”.

5. What do you understand by “clammy cells”?

In the poem "To Autumn" by John Keats, one powerful verbal image or phrase is 'clammy cells'. The meaning of "clammy" is sticky. The word "cells" refers to beehives. During Autumn, beehives thrive. The sticky cells are filled to the brim with honey due to the collaborative activity ("conspiring") of the Autumn and the Sun who are called "close bosom friend".

6. Who is sitting on the granary floor and how?

The season Autumn is supposed to be sitting on the granary floor carelessly. Here the season Autumn is personified as a lady harvester. She is sitting without care, her hair "soft-lifted by the winnowing wind" on the half-cut corns in a mood of drowsiness due to the effect of poppy seeds in the field. The Autumn as harvester is so drowsy that it misses the next bundle of corns along with flowers to be cut.

7. Describe the Autumn as a harvester.

In John Keats' poem "To Autumn", autumn is personified as a lady harvester. The season Autumn is supposed to be sitting on the granary floor carelessly. She is sitting without care, her hair "soft-lifted by the winnowing wind" on the half-cut corns in a mood of drowsiness due to the effect of poppy seeds in the field. The Autumn as harvester is so drowsy that it misses the next bundle of corns along with flowers to be cut.

8. Mention two visual imagery from the poem.

Two visual images from the poem "To Autumn" by John Keats are a. The description of various fruits such as apples, vines, gourd, hazel shells and also flowers and beehives b. The description of Autumn as a harvester, as a gleaner, and as a cyder-presser.