

OCTOBER'S BRIGHT BLUE WEATHER

O suns and skies and clouds of June,
And flowers of June together,
Ye cannot rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather;

When loud the bumblebee makes haste,
Belated, thriftless, vagrant,
And golden-rod is dying fast,
And lanes with grapes are fragrant;

When gentians roll their fringes tight
To save them for the morning,
And chestnuts fall from satin burrs
Without a sound of warning;

When on the ground red apples lie
In piles like jewels shining,
And redder still on old stone walls
Are leaves of woodbine twining;



When all the lovely wayside things
Their white-winged seeds are sowing,
And in the fields, still green and fair,
Late aftermaths are growing ;

When springs run low, and on the brooks,
In idle golden freighting,
Bright leaves sink noiseless in the hush
Of woods, for winter waiting ;

When comrades seek sweet country haunts,
By twos and twos together,
And count like misers, hour by hour,
October's bright blue weather.

O sun and skies and flowers of June,
Count all your boasts together,
Love loveth best of all the year
October's bright blue weather.

— HELEN HUNT JACKSON.



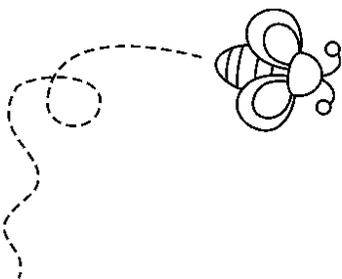
Name _____ Dae _____

Read the poem carefully aloud.

1. What is the first stanza about? _____

2. What is the last stanza about? _____

3. What are the other stanzas about? _____



4. Have you seen bumblebees, golden-rod, gentians, grapes, chestnuts, woodbine, and apple trees?

5. Define these words:

belated - _____

thriftless - _____

vagrant - _____

6. Why are the words in #5 applied to the bumblebee? _____

Name _____ Dae _____

7. Explain the first two lines of the third stanza. _____

8. Why are chestnut burrs described as *satin*? _____

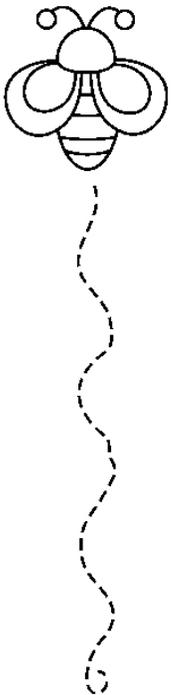
9. Explain:

white-winged seeds _____

aftermaths _____

lovely wayside things _____

golden freighting _____



About The Author



Biography: Helen Hunt Jackson (1831-1885) was an American poet and novelist. She was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, where her father was a professor in Amherst College, but she spent much of her life in California.

She married a banker in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she lived for a few years.

Her poems are very beautiful, and "September" and "October's Bright Blue Weather" are especially good pictures of these autumn months.