



SEPTEMBER

Helen Hunt Jackson

The goldenrod is yellow;
The corn is turning brown;
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.

The gentian's bluest fringes
Are curling in the sun;
In *dusky pods* the milkweed
Its *hidden silk has spun*.

The sedges flaunt their harvest
In every meadow-nook;
And asters by the brookside
Make asters in the brook.

From dewy lanes at morning
The grapes' sweet odors rise;
At noon the roads all flutter
With yellow butterflies.

By all these *lovely tokens*
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather,
And autumn's *best of cheer*.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS



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. Every child should know these poems by heart.

Discussion:

1. What is meant by the harvest of the sedges? _____

2. How are the "asters in the brook" made? _____

3. Which lines in the last stanza tell us what September brings? _____

4. What things mentioned in this poem have you seen? _____

Phrases for Study:

dusky pods - dark-colored seed vessels

lovely tokens - beautiful signs

hidden silk has spun - threads of down in the pod that resemble those that the silkworm spins

best of cheer - things that make one most happy