

Tea Time: Helen Hunt Jackson

post by Wende

Helen Hunt Jackson was born Helen Fiske in Amherst, Massachusetts on October 15, 1830. Her father was a minister, author, and professor of Latin, Greek, and philosophy at Amherst College. Helen was well educated, attending Ipswich Female Seminary and the Abbott Institute, a boarding school run by Reverend J.S.C. Abbott in New York City.

She was a classmate of the poet Emily Dickinson, also from Amherst. Her mother died in 1844, and her father died three years later in 1847, leaving her to the care of an aunt.

Helen married Captain Edward Hunt in 1852. Helen turned to writing after her husband and her two sons died. In 1875 she married a banker, William Jackson, and moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she lived for a few years. A prolific poet and novelist, Helen Hunt Jackson is primarily remembered for her work "Ramona", a novel about the ill treatment of Native Americans in southern California. Her poems are beautiful, and "September" and "October's Bright Blue Weather" are especially good pictures of these autumn months. Hunt died of cancer in San Francisco, California on August 12, 1885.



SEPTEMBER

By 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.

Activities

Recite or memorize the poem, "September Notebook."

Record what you learn about Helen Hunt Jackson on the notebooking page.

Analyze "September" using the study notes.

Tea Time Treat

[Old Fashioned Apple Crisp](#) served with spiced apple tea or hot cider.

Materials and information on this website may be used for your own personal and school use. **Material may not be shared electronically or be used for resale.**

© Homeschool Share

SEPTEMBER

By 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.

September by 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.*

Helen Hunt Jackson



Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____

Place of Death: _____

What is she famous for?

September by Helen Hunt Jackson

First Stanza

The goldenrod is yellow;

The corn is turning brown;

The trees in apple orchards

With fruit are bending down.

Second Stanza

The gentian's bluest fringes

Are curling in the sun;

In dusky pods the milkweed

Its hidden silk has spun.

September by Helen Hunt Jackson

Third Stanza

The sedges flaunt their harvest

In every meadow-nook;

And asters by the brookside

Make asters in the brook.

Fourth Stanza

From dewy lanes at morning

The grapes' sweet odors rise;

At noon the roads all flutter

With yellow butterflies.

September by Helen Hunt Jackson

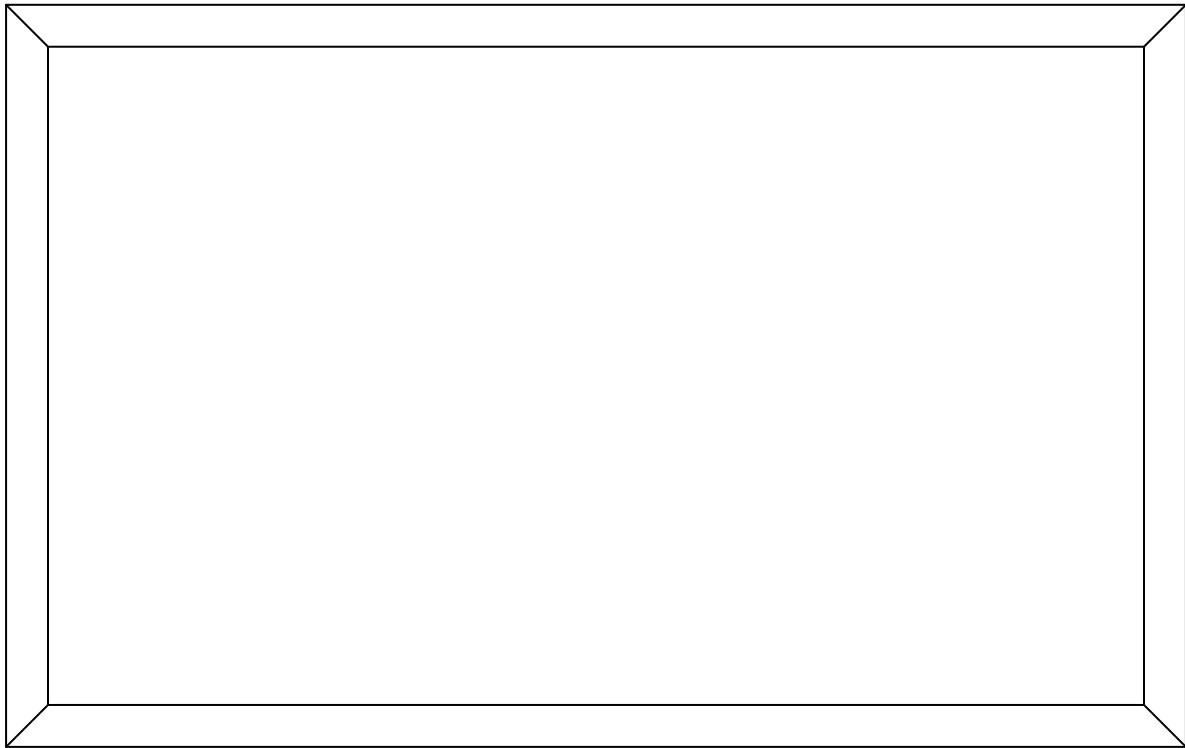
Fifth Stanza

By all these lovely tokens

September days are here,

With summer's best of weather,

And autumn's best of cheer.



September by Helen Hunt Jackson

First Stanza

The goldenrod is yellow;

The corn is turning brown;

The trees in apple orchards

With fruit are bending down.

Second Stanza

The gentian's bluest fringes

Are curling in the sun;

In dusky pods the milkweed

Its hidden silk has spun.

September by Helen Hunt Jackson

Third Stanza

The sedges flaunt their harvest

In every meadow-nook;

And asters by the brookside

Make asters in the brook.

Fourth Stanza

From dewy lanes at morning

The grapes' sweet odors rise;

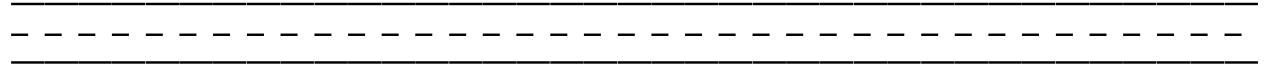
At noon the roads all flutter

With yellow butterflies.

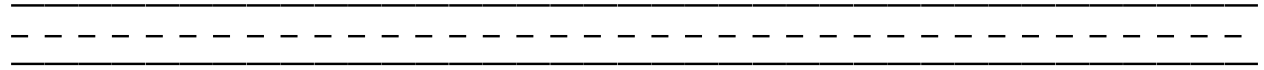
September by Helen Hunt Jackson

Fifth Stanza

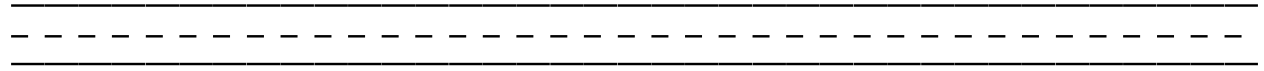
By all these lovely tokens



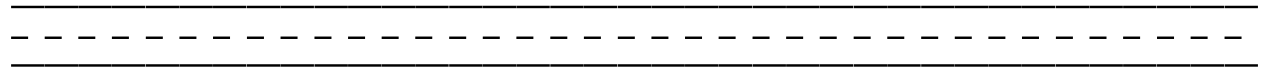
September days are here,



With summer's best of weather,



And autumn's best of cheer.



September
by Helen Hunt Jackson

Study Notes

Define:

Gentian: _____

Dusky: _____

Sedges: _____

Flaunt: _____

Token: _____

Interpret:

Explain, in your own words, what beauty of nature the poet describes in, "And asters by the brookside, Make asters in the brook."

Examine:

Look at the individual elements of the poem. Give examples of the following:

Repetition – when the same word(s) are used more than once in a line or poem

Enjambement – when a thought continues from one line into the next

Consonance –the repetition of consonant sounds in neighboring words

Evaluate:

The value of a poem is determined by the impact it has on its reader. When you think of September, how does it compare to the poet's reflections?

September

by Helen Hunt Jackson

Study Notes

Define:

Gentian: a species of plant, common to mountainous areas, also called felwort.

Dusky: dark colored; gloomy

Sedges: very coarse grasses growing in swamps

Flaunt: display for show

Token: something intended to represent an event

Interpret:

Explain, in your own words, what beauty of nature the poet describes in, "And asters by the brookside, Make asters in the brook."

The brookside asters are reflecting into the brook, causing the appearance of more asters

Examine:

Look at the individual elements of the poem. Give examples of the following:

Repetition – when the same word(s) are used more than once in a line or poem

The last two lines of the poem,

“With summer's best of weather,

And autumn's best of cheer.”

Enjambement – when a thought continues from one line into the next

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

And asters by the brookside
Make asters in the brook.

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

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

The sedges flaunt their harvest
In every meadow-nook;

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

Consonance –the repetition of consonant sounds in neighboring words

The corn is turning brown;

Its hidden silk has spun.

In dusky pods the milkweed

The grapes' sweet o odors rise;

Evaluate:

The value of a poem is determined by the impact it has on its reader. When you think of September, how does it compare to the poet's reflections? *Answers will vary*