A Season for Chapters

Second Grade Unit 1

**Poetry**

**Poems (Read Aloud)**

**Bed in Summer**

In winter I get up at night

And dress by yellow candle-light.

In summer, quite the other way,

I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed to see

The birds still hopping on the tree,

Or hear the grown-up people’s feet

Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you,

When all the sky is clear and blue,

And I should like so much to play,

To have to go to bed by day?

* Robert Louis Stevenson

**A Vagabond Song**

There is something in the autumn that is native to my blood-

Touch of manner, hint of mood;

And my heart is like a rhyme,

With the yellow and purple and the crimson keeping time.

The scarlet of the maples can shake me like a cry

Of bugles going by.

And my lonely spirit thrills

To see the frosty asters like a smoke upon the hills.

There is something in October sets the gyspy blood astir;

We must rise and follow her,

When from every hill of flame

She calls and calls each vagabond by name.

* Bliss Carman

**The Snowflake**

Before I melt,

Come, look at me!

This lovely icy filigree!

Of a great forest

In one night

I make a wilderness

Of white:

By skyey cold

Of crystals made,

All softly, on

Your finger laid,

I pause, that you

My beauty see:

Breathe; and I vanish

Instantly.

* Walter De La Mare

**The Locust Tree in Flower**

Among

of

green

stiff

old

bright

broken

branch

come

white

sweet

May

Again

* William Carlos Williams

**Poems**

**Autumn**

The morns are meeker than they were,

The nuts are getting brown;

The berry’s cheek is plumper,

The rose is out of town.

The maple wears a gayer scarf,

The field a scarlet gown.

Lest I should be old-fashioned,

I’ll put a trinket on.

* Emily Dickinson

**Something Told the Wild Geese**

Something told the wild geese  
It was time to go;  
Though the fields lay golden  
Something whispered, -"snow."  
Leaves were green and stirring,  
Berries, luster-glossed,  
But beneath warm feathers  
Something cautioned, -"frost."  
  
All the sagging orchards  
Steamed with amber spice,  
But each wild breast stiffened  
At remembered ice.  
  
Something told the wild geese  
It was time to fly,  
Summer sun was on their wings,  
Winter in their cry.

* Rachel Lyman Field

**Who Has Seen the Wind?**

Who has seen the wind?

Neither I nor you:

But when the leaves hang trembling

The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?

Neither you nor I:

But when the trees bow down their heads

The wind is passing by.

* Christina Rossetti

**Weather**

Dot a dot dot dot a dot dot   
Spotting the windowpane.   
  
Spack a spack speck flick a flack fleck   
Freckling the windowpane.   
  
A spatter a scatter a wet cat a clatter   
A splatter a rumble outside.   
  
Umbrella umbrella umbrella umbrella   
Bumbershoot barrel of rain.   
  
Slosh a galosh slosh a galosh   
Slither and slather a glide   
  
A puddle a jump a puddle a jump   
A puddle a jump puddle splosh   
  
A juddle a pump a luddle a dump   
A pudmuddle jump in and slide!

* Eve Merriam

**Knoxville, Tennessee**

I always like summer  
Best  
you can eat fresh corn  
From daddy's garden  
And okra  
And greens  
And cabbage  
And lots of  
Barbeque  
And buttermilk  
And homemade ice-cream  
At the church picnic  
And listen to  
Gospel music  
Outside  
At the church  
Homecoming  
And go to the mountains with  
Your grandmother  
And go barefooted  
And be warm  
All the time  
Not only when you go to bed  
And sleep

* Nikki Giovanni

**Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.  
  
My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.  
  
He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.  
  
The woods are lovely, dark and deep.  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

* Robert Frost

**Summer Song**

By the sand between my toes,

By the waves behind my ears,

By the sunburn on my nose,

By the salty little tears

That make rainbows in the sun

When I squeeze my eyes and run,

By the way the seagulls screech,

Guess where I am? At the.........!

By the way the children shout

Guess what happened? School is......!

By the way I sing this song

Guess if summer lasts too long;

You must answer Right or.......!

* John Ciardi