

Poems about Seasons

Adrian Henri and John Updike were both born in 1932. Henri was a British poet and painter, while Updike was an American poet and writer. They are both known for writing poems that describe familiar scenes. In these poems, they use vivid language to bring the seasons to life.

Autumn

Season of conkers and fireworks
and mellow fruitfulness. New shoes,
and a coat that's a bit too big,
to grow into next year. Blackberries
5 along the canal, white jungles
of frost on the window. Leaves
to kick all the way home,
the smell of bonfires,
stamping the ice on puddles
10 into crazy paving. The nights come in
early, and you can't play out
after school. Soon
there'll be tangerines in the shops,
in shiny paper like Christmas lights.

15 The little ones write letters to Santa Claus.
The big ones laugh under the streetlights.

Adrian Henri



January

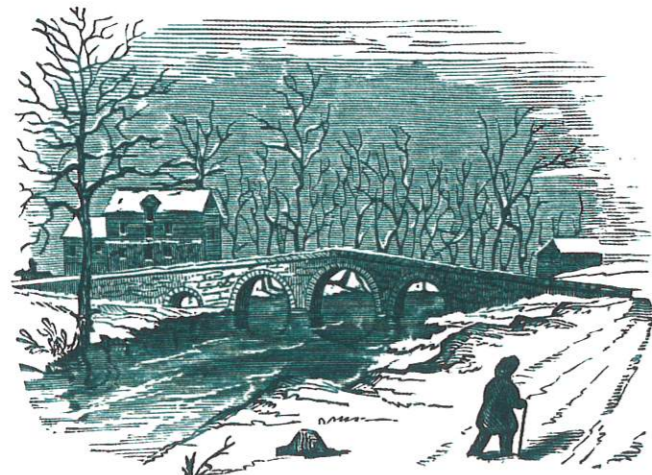
The days are short,
The sun a spark,
Hung thin between
The dark and dark.

5 Fat snowy footsteps
Track the floor.
Milk bottles burst
Outside the door.

The river is
10 A frozen place
Held still beneath
The trees of lace.

The sky is low.
The wind is gray.
15 The radiator
Purrs all day.

John Updike



1 In *January*, the poet says in line 1 that the "days are short". Which phrase from *Autumn* describes short days?

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1 mark

2 Find and copy a simile from lines 1-14 of *Autumn*.

.....

1 mark

3 What does the poet mean by "trees of lace" in line 12 of *January*?

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.....

1 mark

4 Why do you think the poet chose the verb "purrs" to describe the sound of the radiator in line 16 of *January*?

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2 marks

5 Which poem is written in free verse?

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1 mark

6 Which poem do you think is more positive about the season it describes? Explain your answer.

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2 marks

7 Which poem do you prefer? Explain your answer.

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2 marks

Total
out of 10