

**STEPHEN PERSE FOUNDATION  
JUNIOR SCHOOL  
YEAR 4 ENGLISH ENTRANCE**

**Reading Comprehension and Creative Writing**

Read 'English Autumn' and 'Signs of Autumn' then answer the following questions. Remember to check how many marks each answer is worth.

1. List four signs of Autumn described in 'English Autumn' and 'Signs of Autumn.' (2 marks)

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2. In 'English Autumn' what does the poet suggest might encourage you to go out of doors? (1 mark)

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3. In 'English Autumn' what does the poet say is a warning that winter will follow soon? (1 mark)

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4. In 'Signs of Autumn' what smell is in the air? (1 mark)

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5. In 'English Autumn' why does the poet say that the buds are keeping secrets? (2 marks)

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## English Autumn

Clouds chase in silence,  
Across the clear blue sky.  
Giraffe-like shadows,  
Grow longer with the day.  
Overgrown flowers  
Flutter and breathe their last -  
Late buds will never open now,  
Keeping their secrets  
Like unopened presents.

Fruit-filled boughs hang low,  
Waiting to be picked.  
Golden sun-soaked crops  
In waves stirred by the breeze.  
Precious sunny days  
Entice you out of doors,  
Like the Pied Piper on his flute.  
But chill winds will warn  
That winter follows soon.

## Signs of Autumn

The sun is low in the sky and the shadows are lengthening, sure signs that Summer is turning into Autumn. The leaves are still green, but darker and dull. Their edges are turning brown.

Apples, pears and plums hang heavy as lead, making the boughs bend towards the ground. A few fallen leaves scamper across the grass like mice, stopping and starting, powered by the wind.

From inside, through my window, the sunshine looks as warm and inviting as any summer's day, but I step outside and return for a jumper for protection against the chilly breeze.

The grass is damp and the air is full of the smell of harvest. The hedgerow is laden with hops, elderberries, blackberries and autumn flowering honeysuckle. Oak, beech and chestnut are decorated with nuts, still green, waiting to ripen and turn brown.

The colours of autumn are beautiful but winter will not be far behind.