BIRLA EDUCATION

Question Bank

WBBSE Class 9 English (Bliss)

Lesson 2: Autumn

by John Clare

Seen Questions, Grammar Exercises and Writing Practice

bhaeducation.org

41 sourced questions: 26 Seen questions, 13 grammar questions, 2 writing tasks

Lesson Summary

Autumn is a short lyric by the English poet John Clare. The poet does not describe autumn as a season of decay. He describes it as a season he loves, full of small sights and sounds that give him quiet joy. The poem is a list of things the poet loves to see and hear on an autumn day in the English countryside.

In the first part the poet loves the fitful gust of wind that shakes the casement all day and carries the faded leaf away from the mossy elm-tree. He loves to watch the shaking twig dance till the shut of eve, and to hear the sparrow on the cottage roof, whose chirp makes one believe that spring is flirting by in summer′s lap with flowers to lie.

In the second part the poet turns to dull November days. He loves to see the cottage smoke curl upwards through the naked trees, the pigeons nestled round the cote, the cock crowing on the dung-hill, and the mill-sails turning on the heath. He watches the feather from the raven′s breast fall on the stubble field, the acorns fall pattering down from the old crow′s nest, and the grunting pigs scramble and hurry to eat the fallen acorns. Every image is ordinary and rural, and the poet finds beauty in each one of them.

bihareducation.org

Key Points

Poet	John Clare (1793-1864), English poet known for his poems about nature and rural life
Theme	Love of nature in autumn; finding joy and beauty in simple, everyday sights of the countryside; autumn as a season of quiet pleasure, not of sadness
Setting	The English countryside in late autumn, on dull November days
Imagery	The fitful gust shaking the casement; the faded leaf taken from the mossy elm-tree; the shaking twig dancing till the shut of eve; the sparrow on the cottage rig; cottage smoke curling through naked trees; pigeons nestled round the cote; the cock crowing on the dung-hill; mill-sails on the heath; the raven′s feather falling on the stubble

	lea; acorns falling pattering down; grunting pigs scrambling for the fallen acorns
Form	A lyric poem built on the repeated phrase "I love", with simple rhyming lines and a warm, personal tone
Grammar topics taught	Voice (active and passive); narration (direct and indirect speech)
Writing topics taught	Process writing (paragraph on how to make paper); biography (Annie Besant)

> **Note on the textbook numbering:** Exercise 6 is missing in the printed Bliss textbook. The numbering jumps straight from Exercise 5 to Exercise 7. No Exercise 6 has been invented here.

Seen Questions

A. From the Textbook (Bliss IX)

birlaeducation.org

Exercise 1: Tick the correct answer [textbook exercise]

(1) All through the day the fitful gust shakes the (a) window-pane (b) curtains (c) casement (d) door.

Answer: (c) casement. The gust shakes the casement, the window frame, all day.

(2) The poet loves to see the shaking twig dance till the (a) coming of dawn (b) end of night (c) end of afternoon (d) shut of eve.

Answer: (d) shut of eve. The twig dances till the evening closes in.

(3) The sparrow sat on the (a) cottage rig (b) house-top (c) mossy elm-tree (d) casement.

Answer: (a) cottage rig. The sparrow sits on the ridge of the cottage roof.

(4) The pigeons nestled round the (a) cage (b) cote (c) branch (d) heath.

Answer: (b) cote. The pigeons nestle round the cote, their dovecote, on dull November days.

(5) The cock was crowing upon the (a) dunghill (b) lea (c) tree tops (d) mill-sails.

Answer: (a) dunghill. The cock crows upon the dung-hill.

(6) The grunting pigs (a) walk slowly (b) scamper by (c) scramble and hurry (d) dive and swim.

Answer: (c) scramble and hurry. The pigs scramble and hurry where the acorns fall.

Exercise 2: Answer within twenty-five words [textbook exercise]

(i) What happens to the leaves of the mossy elm-tree in autumn?

Answer: The fitful gust takes the faded leaf away from the mossy elm-tree.

(ii) What are the things the poet loves to see on November days?

Answer: The cottage smoke curling through the naked trees, pigeons nestled round the cote, the cock crowing on the dung-hill and the mill-sails going.

B. From School Papers

1st Unit Test Model 2022, WBShiksha

Poem: first two stanzas, from "I love the fitful gust" through "In summer's lap with flowers to lie".

A) Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives [1 x 2 = 2]

(i) The fitful gust takes the faded leaves away from the (a) banyan tree (b) elm-tree (c) cherry tree (d) fig tree. **[1st unit test model 2022, WBShiksha]**

bmaeducation.org

Answer: (b) elm-tree. The gust takes the faded leaf away from the mossy elm-tree.

(ii) The bird whose chirp would make believe that spring was just now flirting by is (a) pigeon (b) cuckoo (c) robin (d) sparrow. **[1st unit test model 2022, WBShiksha]**

Answer: (d) sparrow. It is the sparrow on the cottage rig whose chirp makes one believe that spring is flirting by.

B) List two things that the poet loves [2] **[1st unit test model 2022, WBShiksha]**

Answer: (1) The fitful gust that shakes the casement all day. (2) The shaking twig dancing till the shut of eve.

Birbhum Zilla School 2026, Ray and Martin pp. 75-77

Poem extract: "I love to see the cottage smoke / Curl upwards through the naked trees, / The pigeons nestled round the cote / On dull November days like these; ... The grunting pigs, that wait for all, / Scramble and hurry where they fall."

(i) Where does the smoke rise from? **[Birbhum Zilla School 2026]**

Answer: The smoke rises from the cottage and curls upwards through the naked trees.

(ii) What does the poet feel about the November month? **[Birbhum Zilla School 2026]**

Answer: The poet calls the November days dull, but he loves them, because they are full of sights he loves to see.

(iii) Where does the raven's feather fall? **[Birbhum Zilla School 2026]**

Answer: The feather from the raven's breast falls on the stubble lea, the harvested field.

(iv) Why do the pigs hurry? **[Birbhum Zilla School 2026]**

Answer: The grunting pigs scramble and hurry to eat the acorns that fall pattering down from the tree.

Budge Budge PK HS 2026, Ray and Martin p. 3

Poem extract: "The pigeons nestled round the cote / On dull November days like these; / The cock upon the dung-hill crowing, / The mill sails on the heath a-going. / The feather from the raven's breast / Falls on the stubble lea,"

A. Write 'T' for True and 'F' for False statements and provide supporting statements:

(i) The November days are dull. [ ] Supporting statement: _____ **[Budge Budge PK HS 2026]**

birlaeducation.org

Answer: T. Supporting statement: "On dull November days like these".

(ii) The cock is crowing on the rock. [ ] Supporting statement: _____ **[Budge Budge PK HS 2026]**

Answer: F. Supporting statement: "The cock upon the dung-hill crowing". The cock crows on the dung-hill, not on a rock.

B. Answer the following question:

What do you mean by 'stubble lea'? **[Budge Budge PK HS 2026]**

Answer: A 'stubble lea' is a harvested field. 'Lea' means an open grassy field, and 'stubble' means the short stalks left standing after the corn has been cut.

Falakata HS 2026, Ray and Martin p. 5

Poem: first stanza, "I love the fitful gust that shakes / The casement all day..."

A. Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives:

(i) The poem, 'Autumn' is a kind of (a) metaphysical poem, (b) ballad, (c) war poem, (d) nature poem. **[Falakata HS 2026]**

Answer: (d) nature poem. The poem describes the sights and sounds of nature in autumn.

(ii) The poem 'Autumn' describes the beauty of a/the (a) countryside, (b) hill side, (c) rural festival, (d) urban life. **[Falakata HS 2026]**

Answer: (a) countryside. The poem describes the beauty of the rural countryside in autumn.

B. Answer the following questions each within fifteen words:

(i) Where do the faded leaves ultimately lie? **[Falakata HS 2026]**

Answer: The poem says the fitful gust takes the faded leaf away from the mossy elm-tree. It does not name the place where the leaf finally comes to rest.

(ii) What did the 'fitful gust' take away? **[Falakata HS 2026]**

Answer: The fitful gust took away the faded leaf from the mossy elm-tree.

> **Note:** The line "In summer's lap with flowers to lie" describes spring flirting by, not the faded leaf, so it is not the answer to question B(i) above.

1st Summative 2026, HazarNotes Set-4

Stanza: "I love the fitful gust that shakes / The casement all day..." (first stanza only).

A. Tick the correct answer from the given alternatives [1 x 2 = 2]

(i) The tree mentioned is (a) banayan tree (b) banana plant (c) elm tree (d) mango tree. **[1st summative 2026, HazarNotes Set-4]**

Answer: (c) elm tree. The poem speaks of the mossy elm-tree.

(ii) The leaves are (a) Fresh (b) Faded (c) stale (d) green. **[1st summative 2026, HazarNotes Set-4]**

Answer: (b) Faded. The gust takes the faded leaf away from the elm-tree.

B. Answer in brief [1 x 2 = 2]

(i) Who is the poet of the poem? **[1st summative 2026, HazarNotes Set-4]**

Answer: John Clare is the poet of the poem 'Autumn'.

(ii) What does the poet love? **[1st summative 2026, HazarNotes Set-4]**

Answer: The poet loves the fitful gust that shakes the casement all day and takes the faded leaf away from the mossy elm-tree.

> **Note:** In question A(i) above, option (a) is printed "banayan tree" in the source paper. That is a misprint for "banyan tree". The answer is not affected.

birlaeducation.org

Grammar Exercises

Exercise 3: State whether the following sentences are in Active or Passive Voice [textbook exercise]

(a) Anil will visit his grandmother's house.

Answer: Active Voice. The subject, Anil, does the action of visiting.

(b) The President has left his office.

Answer: Active Voice. The subject, the President, does the action of leaving.

(c) The project will have been finished by the students.

Answer: Passive Voice. The subject, the project, receives the action, and the doer is named with 'by'.

(d) Promita's leave has been sanctioned by the school authority.

Answer: Passive Voice. The subject, Promita's leave, receives the action, and the doer is named with 'by'.

birlaeducation.org

Exercise 4: Change the voice [textbook exercise]

(a) The boy has read out the letter.

Answer: The letter has been read out by the boy.

(b) I shall have bought a cricket bat by tomorrow.

Answer: A cricket bat will have been bought by me by tomorrow.

(c) Sohini's friends had organised a picnic.

Answer: A picnic had been organised by Sohini's friends.

(d) The football team will put up a brave fight.

Answer: A brave fight will be put up by the football team.

Exercise 5: Change into indirect speech [textbook exercise]

(a) I said to him, "Will you share your tiffin with me?"

Answer: I asked him whether he would share his tiffin with me.

(b) Anjan's mother said, "Your father has left for Mumbai."

Answer: Anjan's mother said that his father had left for Mumbai.

(c) The girls triumphantly said, "Hurrah! We have won the match."

Answer: The girls exclaimed with joy that they had won the match.

(d) He says, "Let you be successful in life."

Answer: He wishes that you may be successful in life.

(e) The captain informed, "The tournament was postponed last month."

Answer: The captain informed that the tournament had been postponed the previous month.

Writing Practice

Exercise 7: Process writing (paragraph within 100 words) [textbook exercise]

Write a paragraph within 100 words on how to make paper. Use the following flow chart: cutting down of bamboos, making pulp, adding chemicals, rolling into sheets, adding colour, drying, ready for use.

birlaeducation.org

Model paragraph:

Making paper begins with cutting down bamboos in the forest. The bamboos are carried to the factory and cut into small pieces. These pieces are boiled and beaten to make pulp. Chemicals are added to the pulp to clean it and make it soft. The pulp is then spread out and rolled into thin sheets. Colour is added if coloured paper is needed. The wet sheets are dried in the sun or by machines. When the sheets are fully dry, they are cut to size and packed. The paper is then ready for use in books, notebooks and newspapers.

> **Note:** The same flow-chart task was also set as a school-paper writing task at Falakata HS 2026, Ray and Martin p. 5.

Exercise 8: Biography within 100 words [textbook exercise]

Write a biography of Annie Besant within 100 words.

Hints: born on 1st of October 1847 in London, famous British writer, well known Socialist, activist for the rights of women, participated in Indian politics, joined the Indian National

Congress, became the first woman President of the Indian National Congress in 1917, passed away on 20th of September 1933 in Madras, India.

Model biography:

Annie Besant was born on 1 October 1847 in London. She was a famous British writer and social reformer. She worked as a Socialist and fought for the rights of women. She came to India and took an active part in Indian politics. She joined the Indian National Congress and in 1917 became its first woman President. She also worked for education and started schools and colleges in India. She loved India and made it her home. Annie Besant passed away on 20 September 1933 in Madras. She is remembered as a leader and a true friend of India.

birlaeducation.org