

# The Harvest Moon



The harvest moon,  
Resting calmly among inky clouds.  
He watches over flaxen fields of plenty,  
Silently guarding.

• • • •

He is full, in all his glistening glory;  
A spherical crimson orb.  
Over peaceful pastures, he hangs low  
As ancient as the hills themselves.

• • • •

By day, the plough and combine toil,  
Gathering farmers' yearly yield.  
Golden ears wave;  
Patiently waiting to fulfil their nourishing duty.

• • • •

Our loyal lunar lookout,  
His beams lend their gentle glow.  
As the crisp autumn breeze whispers,  
The annual crop basks in their radiance.

• • • •



As the world slumbers, he is watchful,  
Taking his protective task in hand.  
The lazy, long, summer nights are over,  
Autumn's evensong is the twilight melody.

• • • •

Each year he completes his labour,  
Preserving the wholesome haul.  
Without it, winter would be long and fruitless.  
Without it, famine would fall.

• • • •

The harvest moon,  
Resting calmly among inky clouds.  
He watches over flaxen fields of plenty,  
Silently guarding.

# Questions

1. Which season is this poem about? Tick one.

- ☐ spring
- ☐ summer
- ☐ autumn
- ☐ winter

2. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its meaning.

glistening

pastures

toil

nourishing

to work hard

sparkling or shining

giving life or strength

fields of grass or crops

3. Give **two** examples of colours that are used in the poem.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. Find and copy one word which shows that the harvest moon is old.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Find and copy **two** examples of alliteration.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

6. Look at the third stanza.

Explain what is happening during the day.

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7. **Without it winter would be long and fruitless.**

**Without it famine would fall.**

What do you think is meant by this?

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8. What impression does the poem give you of the harvest moon?

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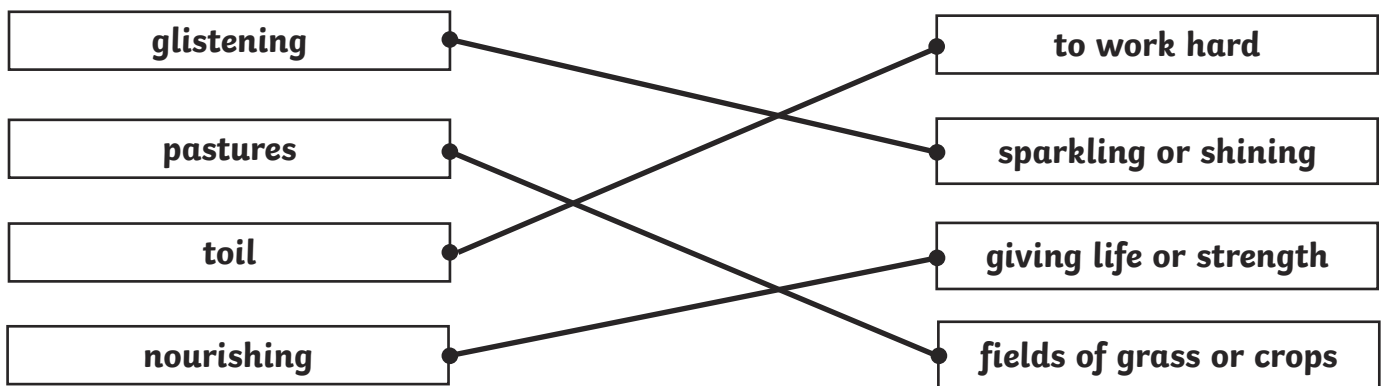
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# Answers

1. Which season is the poem about? Tick one.

- ☐ spring
- ☐ summer
- ☒ **autumn**
- ☐ winter

2. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its meaning.



3. Give **two** examples of colours that are used in the poem.

**Any two of the following: inky, flaxed, crimson, golden**

4. Find and copy one word which shows that the harvest moon is old.

**ancient**

5. Find and copy **two** examples of alliteration.

**Accept any two of the following: flaxen fields; glistening glory; peaceful pastures; yearly yield; loyal lunar lookout; lazy, long.**

6. Look at the third stanza.

Explain what is happening during the day.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: During the day, the farmers are working in the field with the plough and the combine harvester. They are gathering the crops. The wheat is waving in the wind, waiting to be made into food for people to eat. Without it winter would be long and fruitless. Without it famine would fall.**

7. What do you think is meant by this?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think these lines mean that without the harvest there would be no food for winter. Winter would be long and hard and people would be hungry.**

8. What impression does the poem give you of the harvest moon?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The poem gives me the impression that the harvest moon is like a guardian, looking after the crops at night to make sure that there will be plenty of food for people to eat in the winter.**

# Questions

1. Which word tells us that the harvest moon is red? Tick one.

- ☐ glistening
- ☐ inky
- ☐ crimson
- ☐ golden

2. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its synonym.

slumber

haul

fruitless

beam

empty

sleep

harvest

ray

3. Find and copy **two** examples of **alliteration** from the poem.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the meaning of the word **yield**?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Find and copy one phrase that suggests the poet thinks that the harvest moon is looking after the crops.

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6. **Our loyal lunar lookout,  
His beams lend their gentle glow.**

What do you think is meant by this?

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7. **Gold ears wave;**

What do you think the poet is describing here?

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8. What is personification? Explain your answer using an example from the poem.

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9. The poet has repeated the first stanza as the last stanza.  
Why do you think this is?

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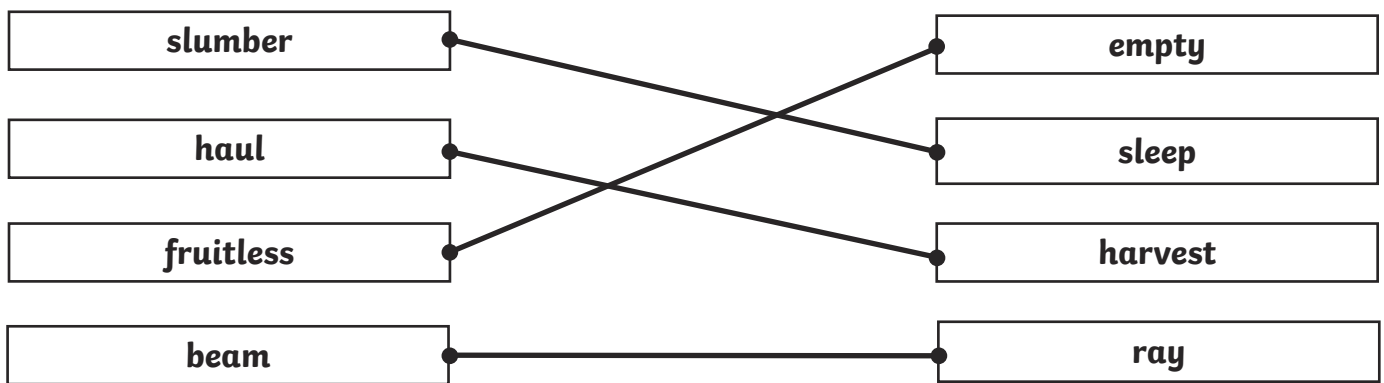


# Answers

1. Which word tells us that the harvest moon is red? Tick one.

- ☐ glistening
- ☐ inky
- ☒ **crimson**
- ☐ golden

2. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its synonym.



3. Find and copy **two** examples of **alliteration** from the poem.

Accept any two of the following: **flaxen fields**; **glistening glory**; **peaceful pastures**; **yearly yield**; **loyal lunar lookout**; **lazy, long**.

4. What is the meaning of the word **yield**?

**The yield is the harvest or crops that are produced.**

5. Find and copy one phrase that suggests the poet thinks that the harvest moon is looking after the crops.

Accept any of the following: **He watches over flaxen fields of plenty**; **Our loyal lunar lookout**; **As the world slumbers, he is watchful**; **Taking his protective task in hand**; **Preserving the wholesome haul**.

6. **Our loyal lunar lookout,  
His beams lend their gentle glow.**

What do you think is meant by this?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think this means that the harvest moon is watching over the fields, looking after the crops and the moonlight is shining down and gently lighting them up.**

7. **Gold ears wave;**

What do you think the poet is describing here?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the poet is describing the corn or wheat in the fields. They are a golden colour and they are waving in the wind.**

8. What is personification? Explain your answer using an example from the poem.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Personification is when a writer describes something as if it is human when it is not, for example: 'he watches over flaxen fields of plenty'. This is personification because the harvest moon can't actually watch as it doesn't have eyes.**

9. The poet has repeated the first stanza as the last stanza.  
Why do you think this is?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the poet has repeated the first stanza as the last stanza because they are showing that the harvest is part of an annual cycle. It also emphasises how the harvest moon is guarding the fields.**

# Questions

1. Look at the first stanza. Which word tells us that the sky is dark? Tick one.

- ☐ calmly
- ☐ inky
- ☐ flaxen
- ☐ harvest

2. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its synonym.

crimson

crop

yield

starvation

lookout

ruby

famine

guardian

3. What time of year is the poem describing?

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4. Find and copy **two** phrases from the poem that show that the harvest moon acts as a guard.

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5. **A spherical crimson orb**

What does this tell us about the harvest moon's appearance?

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6. The poet uses personification throughout the poem.  
Find two examples from the poem that show this.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

7. Look at stanza six. The words 'without it' are repeated twice.  
What is the purpose of repeating these words?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. **Gold ears wave;**  
**Patiently waiting to fulfil their nourishing duty.**  
What is the meaning of this sentence?

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Which poetic device is used in stanza six that does not appear in the rest of the poem?  
Explain why you think this is.

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10. What impression does the poem give of the harvest moon?

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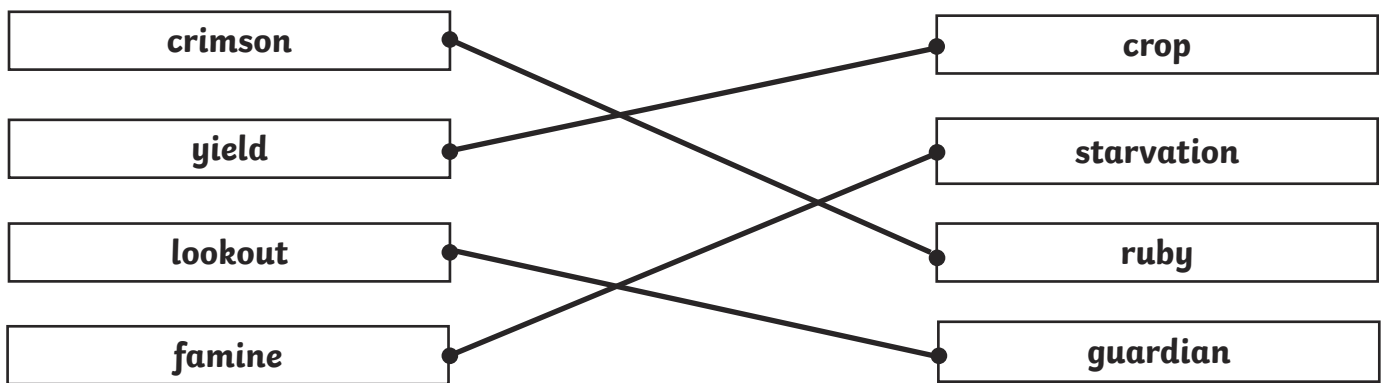
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# Answers

1. Look at the first stanza. Which word tells us that the sky is dark? Tick one.

- ☐ calmly
- ☒ **inky**
- ☐ flaxen
- ☐ harvest

2. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its synonym.



3. What time of year is the poem describing?

**autumn or harvest**

4. Find and copy **two** phrases from the poem that show that the harvest moon acts as a guard.

**Accept any of the following: He watches over flaxen fields of plenty; Our loyal lunar lookout; As the world slumbers, he is watchful; Taking his protective task in hand; Preserving the wholesome haul.**

5. **A spherical crimson orb**

What does this tell us about the harvest moon's appearance?

**This phrase tells us that the harvest moon is round and red.**

6. The poet uses personification throughout the poem.  
Find two examples from the poem that show this.

**Accept any two of the following: Resting calmly among inky clouds; He watches over flaxen fields of plenty; Silently guarding; he is watchful; Each year he completes his task.**

7. Look at stanza six. The words 'without it' are repeated twice.  
What is the purpose of repeating these words?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the purpose of repeating the words without is to show how important the harvest moon is in his task of looking after the crops because without the crops there would be a famine.**

8. **Gold ears wave;**  
**Patiently waiting to fulfil their nourishing duty.**  
What is the meaning of this sentence?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the meaning of this sentence is all about the crop growing in the field. It means the crop is probably wheat or corn because the top section of these plants are often called ears. They are waiting patiently for their time to be harvested, become food and provide nourishment for people.**

9. Which poetic device is used in stanza six that does not appear in the rest of the poem?  
Explain why you think this is.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: In stanza six, the poet uses a rhyming couplet; this means that two lines rhyme with each other. The words that rhyme are 'haul' and 'fall'. I think the poet only used it here because they wanted to have some variety in the different stanzas.**

10. What impression does the poem give of the harvest moon?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The poem gives me the impression that the harvest moon is a calm, gentle guardian who watches over the crops while the farmers are sleeping. He comes out at night to make sure that the crops are safe. He does this every year to ensure that there are lots of crops for the harvest so that people can eat in the winter.**