

### Nature Study in Common Schools.

No month of the year offers a better opportunity to study plant life than September. Many flowers are yet in bloom, and autumn is the time for maturing fruit. Field lessons may be undertaken for the observation and collection of entire plants, where the whole process, from the blossom to fruit, may be seen often on one plant. The constituents of the different kinds of edible fruits may be studied—apples, plums, berries, nuts and pods. The depredations of insects and fungi upon leaves, fruits, flowers and twigs should be noticed, and the harmful and useful relations of animals to plants be drawn from many examples that will claim the attention of the observant teacher and pupil.

Have trees finished their growth for this season? How can you tell?

Is the same true of other plants that you know?

Have old trees grown as rapidly as young trees?

Name the trees that grow fastest. Can you tell how much a branch has grown this season?

Which are the most beautiful trees? In what respect are they beautiful?

What colors are most common among ripened fruits? Why?

In what way do fruits protect themselves in order that the seeds may become ripe?

Collect seeds and fruits of all kinds; dry and preserve them carefully in envelopes or bottles for future study.

#### STORY OF A NATURE WORD - PICTURE,

(Adapted from Alice Woodworth Cooley's "Language Lessons from Literature," published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

An old English poet painted in words a picture he called "Autumn."

Then came the Autumn all in yellow clad,  
As though he joyed in his plenteous store,  
Laden with fruits that made him laugh, full glad  
That he had banished hunger . . . . .

Upon his head a wreath, that was enrolled  
With ears of corn of every sort he bore;  
And in his hand a sickle he did hold,  
To reap the ripening fruits the earth had yold.

—Edmund Spenser.

Study the word-picture. Make your answer to each question tell, or express, an entire thought. Each answer will then be a complete statement, or sentence.

Why did Spenser paint autumn as clad, or clothed, in yellow? Name as many as you can of the flow-

ers, grains, fruits, grasses, weeds, shrubs and trees that clothe the earth in yellow in autumn. *Plenteous store* means a full supply for future use. Whittier speaks of

The plenteous horn  
Of Autumn, filled and running o'er,  
With fruit and flower and golden corn.

Whittier also speaks of the year as laughing out over his rich store. Spenser thinks autumn is happy and joyous as he pours out his gifts. In what words does he say so?

Is it a happy time for us as we gather in, or harvest, these gifts? Think of the hayfields, wheat-fields, cornfields, orchards, and the woods where nuts are dropping. Would you like to be harvesting in some of these places? In which of them do you think you would have most fun? Why?

The word *corn* is often used to mean grain of all kinds. It is so used here. What kinds of grain do you see enrolled in the wreath that autumn bore? *Yold*, the old word for yielded, means given up. What are some of the ripening fruits that the earth yields and autumn reaps?

Group in pairs the words of like meaning, and tell which of the six are used in the word-picture: plenteous, clothed, laden, clad, loaded, plentiful.

Let the pupils write the following words and their plurals, where possible, from dictation and spell them orally. (The number of lessons into which these words may be divided will depend on the ability of the class): Potato, Indian corn, maize, squash, pumpkin, cucumber, cranberry, strawberry, raspberry, lemon, onion, cabbage, beet, celery, radish, turnip, carrot, parsnip, banana, pine-cone, oats, wheat, buckwheat, barley, flax, rice, bean, cotton-boll, coffee-berry, pea, tomato, orange, apple, peach, grape, pear, melon, plum, huckleberry, peanut.

Which of the products named in the spelling-lesson are fruits? Which have the food supplies stored in the root or rootstock? In the stem? in the leaves? What grains are named? Make oral or written sentences about each product separately, using the word "seen," as, —I have seen—growing in the field. I am sure you have seen —hanging from vines. I had never seen —growing until I visited —. My cousins live in —, where they have seen —. We have all seen—.

Have sentences written from dictation with the following words: Ripened, drooping, vines, grain, sheaf, sheaves, fields, harvest, bending, golden, purple, flower, fruit, juicy.