**John Keats, ‘To Autumn’ (written c.19 September 1819; published 1820)**

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,

 Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;

Conspiring with him how to load and bless

 With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;

To bend with apples the moss’d cottage-trees,

 And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;

 To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells

 With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,

And still more, later flowers for the bees,

Until they think warm days will never cease,

 For Summer has o’er-brimmed their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?

 Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find

Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,

 Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;

Or on a half-reap’d furrow sound asleep,

 Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook

 Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:

And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep

 Steady thy laden head across a brook;

 Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,

 Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?

 Think not of them, thou hast thy music too –

While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,

 And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;

Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn

 Among the river sallows, borne aloft

 Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;

And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;

 Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft

 The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;

 And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.