

AUTUMN, A DIRGE.



The warm sun is failing, the bleak wind is wailing,
 The bare boughs are sighing, the pale flowers are dying,
 ' And the Year
 On the earth her death-bed, in a shroud of leaves dead,
 Is lying.
 Come, Months, come away, —
 From November to May,
 In your saddest array;
 Follow the bier
 Of the dead cold Year,
 And like dim shadows watch by her sepulchre.
 The chill rain is falling, the nipped worm is crawling,
 The rivers are swelling, the thunder is knelling
 For the Year;
 The blithe swallows are flown, and the lizards each gone
 To his dwelling;
 Come, Months, come away;
 Put on white, black, and grey;
 Let your light sisters play —
 Ye, follow the bier
 Of the dead cold Year,
 And make her grave green with tear on tear.

SHELLEY.

Exercises

A) - Compléter avec des prépositions : 1. He was sitting... the fire — 2. She was crying ... grief. — 3. I have never succeeded ... finding his grave in the cemetery. — 4. I want to find out when he died ... studying all these books. — 5. The bells are tolling ... the dead man.

B) - Mettre a la forme a) interrogative, b) négative : 1. He let them do it. — 2. I left my umbrella in my pew. — 3. We shall paint the door brown. — 4. You have heard the clap of thunder. — 5. It cost a lot of money.

C) - Mettre en discours indirect : 1. She said, “he will be buried on Wednesday”. — 2. I answered, “I will not let them them go.” — 3. John asked, “When do people wear black and white clothes?” — 4. Paul remarked, “Thunder is like the knell of the year.” — 5. She asked me, “Have you left your watch at your uncle’s?”

Theme

A) - Traduire : 1. Toute la ville était désespérée (deux tra- ductions). — 2. Tous ses amis le consi- déraient avec tristesse, — 3. J’ai vu toutes les vaches du village dans ce pâturage mainte et mainte fois. — 4. Tous les amis gémissaient de désespoir. — 5. Toute cette histoire n’aurait jamais été écrite si Mrs. Gaskell n’avait pas vu cette vache.

B) - Traduire en employant little, a little, few, a few : — 1. J’ai peu de courage. — 2. Elle a un peu d’argent et quelques vaches, elle n’est pas pauvre. — 3. Peu de gens pouvaient retenir leurs larmes. — 4. Je connais peu de gens qui sachent traire les vaches. — 5. Un bon nombre le (so) pensaient, mais bien peu le disaient.

False friends ...

Faux Amis

anxious to	<i>très désireux de</i>
corpse	<i>cadavre (Fr. corps : body)</i>
bier	<i>civière, brancard (bière, cercueil : coffin)</i>
to advertise	<i>faire de la réclame, mettre une annonce</i>
advertisement	<i>réclame, annonce</i>
vicar	<i>pasteur titulaire, curé</i>
curate	<i>vicaire</i>
to attend	<i>faire attention, accompagner, assister à (atten- dre : to wait)</i>
effectually	<i>avec succès, efficacement (effectivement : actually)</i>

Vocabulary

AUTUMN : A DIRGE

1. When a man has died (when he is dead), his **corpse** ['kɔ:ps] (his dead body) is wrapped up in a white **shroud** [ʃraʊd], and placed in a wooden box called a **coffin** ['kɒfɪn]. Some people may **watch** [wɒtʃ] by the side of the coffin (stay awake during the night). Then the **funeral** ['fju:nərəl] takes place. The coffin is put on a **hearse** [hɜ:s], and the funeral procession goes to the church for the funeral service, then to the churchyard ['tʃɜ:tʃ'a:d] or, in a town, to the **cemetery** ['semɪtri] where the dead man is to be buried ['berɪd].

Before or during the **burial** ['beriəl], the bells ring a **knell** [nel], they **toll** [təʊl] for the dead man.

In some foreign ['fɔ:ɪn] countries, the coffin, or even the corpse, is still carried on a wooden frame called a **bier** (Mind! a bier is not a coffin).

The relatives and friends **mourn** [mɔ:n] for the dead person. Some wear black clothes as a sign of **grief** [gri:f]; they are in **mourning** ['mɔ:nɪŋ]. The widow and children look very **pale** [peɪl]. They cry and **sigh** [saɪ] (to sigh is to draw in one's breath audibly).

To **wail** [weɪl] = to cry out with grief.

A **dirge** [dɜ:dʒ] = a funeral song.

2. The sky was very dark and cloudy. The branches of the trees, even the big **boughs** [baʊz] were shaken and tossed about by a **chill** [tʃɪl] wind (i. e. a wind that was unpleasantly cold). Every bird and animal felt **nipped** [nɪpt] by the cold (bitten by the cold). It was a very **bleak** [bli:k] spot, cold and **cheerless** ['tʃiəlis] (not **cheerful**).

3. When you have the **toothache** ['tu:θeɪk] your cheek is often **swollen** ['swəʊlən]. After heavy rains the rivers swell (have more water).

4. Poetical or literary words : **blithe** [blaɪð] = cheerful. — **array** [ə'reɪ] = clothes. — **ye** [jɪ:] = you (plural).

5. Lizard ['lɪzəd] — **sepulchre** ['sepəlke].