

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Harvest Moon

By Neal Levin

The Harvest Moon will rise tonight.  
I'm working up an appetite.  
The pumpkins will be plump and round.  
We'll dig potatoes from the ground.  
We'll gather yams and yellow squash.  
We'll glean each juicy McIntosh.  
We'll dance and sing a happy tune.  
Thank goodness for the Harvest Moon.



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1. In what season do you think this poem takes place?

- a. winter
- b. spring
- c. summer
- d. fall

2. What happens during a harvest that would cause someone to work up an appetite?

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3. Can you think of another fruit or vegetable harvested during this time of year that might be included in the poem?

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4. In line 6 the poet uses the word *glean*. What do you think that means?

- a. to make something shine
- b. to gather or collect
- c. to eat
- d. to enjoy

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# The Harvest Moon

## What is a Harvest Moon?

According to folklore, a Harvest Moon is the full moon that comes closest to the autumnal equinox. Depending on the year, this moon can appear two weeks before or two weeks after the equinox. In the Northern Hemisphere the autumnal equinox typically occurs in the end of the September. This means that the Harvest Moon can appear anytime from mid-September to early October.

## Why is it called a Harvest Moon?

This full moon is referred to as the Harvest Moon because many years ago, before farmers had electricity, they relied on the light from this moon. The Harvest Moon tends to produce an abundance of moonlight earlier in the evening which allowed farmers to work late into the night harvesting their crops for the year.

## Does the Southern Hemisphere have a Harvest Moon?

Yes. The Southern Hemisphere does have a Harvest Moon, with all the same characteristics, but it occurs in late March or early April.



## ANSWER KEY

# Harvest Moon

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1. In what season do you think this poem takes place? **d**
- a. winter                      b. spring  
c. summer                     d. **fall**

2. What happens during a harvest that would cause someone to work up an appetite?

During a harvest a person is working hard to gather crops. So working in the fields can cause a person to develop an appetite, or being around all the freshly picked vegetables can make them hungry too. Either answer can work.

3. Can you think of another fruit or vegetable harvested during this time of year that might be included in the poem?

answers will vary

4. In line 6 the poet uses the word *glean*. What do you think that means? **b**
- a. to make something shine  
b. **to gather or collect**  
c. to eat  
d. to enjoy