

# AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY

A FREE COLUMN FOR NEWSPAPERS BY TED KOOSER, POET LAUREATE OF THE UNITED STATES, 2004-2006  
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## American Life in Poetry: Column 498

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Here's a lovely poem for this lovely month, by Robert Haight, who lives in Michigan.

### Early October Snow

It will not stay.  
But this morning we wake to pale muslin  
stretched across the grass.  
The pumpkins, still in the fields, are planets  
shrouded by clouds.  
The Weber wears a dunce cap  
and sits in the corner by the garage  
where asters wrap scarves  
around their necks to warm their blooms.  
The leaves, still soldered to their branches  
by a frozen drop of dew, splash  
apple and pear paint along the roadsides.  
It seems we have glanced out a window  
into the near future, mid-December, say,  
the black and white photo of winter  
carefully laid over the present autumn,  
like a morning we pause at the mirror  
inspecting the single strand of hair  
that overnight has turned to snow.

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