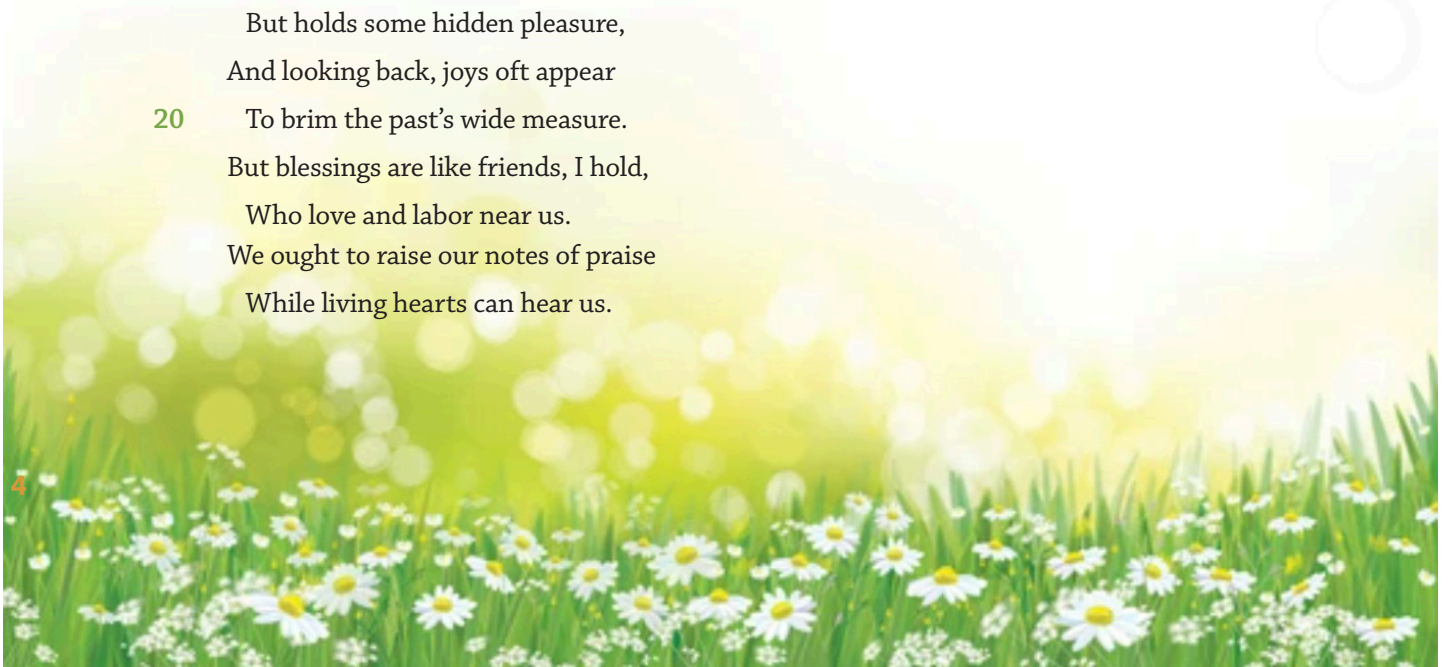


# THANKSGIVING

by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

- We walk on starry fields of white  
And do not see the daisies;  
For blessings common in our sight  
We rarely offer praises.
- 5 We sigh for some supreme delight  
To crown our lives with splendor,  
And quite ignore our daily store  
Of pleasures sweet and tender.
- Our cares are bold and push their way  
10 Upon our thought and feeling.  
They hang about us all the day,  
Our time from pleasure stealing.  
So unobtrusive many a joy  
We pass by and forget it,
- 15 But worry strives to own our lives,  
And conquers if we let it.
- There's not a day in all the year  
But holds some hidden pleasure,  
And looking back, joys oft appear  
20 To brim the past's wide measure.  
But blessings are like friends, I hold,  
Who love and labor near us.  
We ought to raise our notes of praise  
While living hearts can hear us.
- 25 Full many a blessing wears the guise  
Of worry or of trouble;  
Far-seeing is the soul, and wise,  
Who knows the mask is double.  
But he who has the faith and strength  
30 To thank his God for sorrow  
Has found a joy without alloy  
To gladden every morrow.
- We ought to make the moments notes  
Of happy, glad Thanksgiving;  
35 The hours and days a silent phrase  
Of music we are living.  
And so the theme should swell and grow  
As weeks and months pass o'er us,  
And rise sublime at this good time,  
40 A grand Thanksgiving chorus.





# THANKSGIVING

by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Answer the following questions about "Thanksgiving."

1. Label the ideas from the poem with the stanzas in which they are expressed. Use 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Our worries can blind us to the joys that are abundant in everyday life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There are hidden blessings in the hardships we must endure throughout our lives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We often do not notice the wonderful little things that fill our daily lives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We should recognize the things we can appreciate in every moment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We should celebrate joyful things in the present, not just when recalling them.

2. Write a sentence that describes the poem's theme.

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3. Describe how the author uses figurative language in lines 9–16 of the poem.

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4. Reread the following lines from the poem.

Full many a blessing wears the guise  
Of worry or of trouble;  
Far-seeing is the soul, and wise,  
Who knows the mask is double.

What does the author mean by these lines?

- a. A blessing often causes more trouble than it's worth.
- b. A blessing can first seem troublesome before we recognize its advantages.
- c. A blessing benefits one person while it brings worry or trouble to another.
- d. A blessing teaches us gratitude and wisdom rather than worry.

5. In lines 33–40 of the poem, to what does the author compare Thanksgiving?

- a. the end of a book that includes notes about an author's life
- b. a feast that makes the bellies of our souls swell with joy
- c. the chorus of a song that has been sung throughout the year
- d. a clock that shows how the days and hours have passed by too swiftly

6. How does the author's use of the first-person plural pronouns *we*, *our*, and *us* contribute to the poem's meaning? Choose two answers.

- a. The first-person plural pronouns establish a connection between the author and the reader.
- b. The use of first-person plural pronouns helps the narrator seem more knowledgeable.
- c. The pronouns are used in figurative language, which makes the poem more meaningful.
- d. The pronouns create a feeling of togetherness that is associated with gathering to give thanks on Thanksgiving.
- e. The first-person plural pronouns show that the poem was written by two authors who share the same feelings.

7. *Internal rhyme* is a kind of rhyme in which two or more words within a line or across multiple lines of a poem rhyme. Provide two examples of internal rhyme in the poem.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

8. "Thanksgiving" was published in 1903 in a book of Wilcox's poems titled *Poems of Power*. Describe how this poem fits into the topic of power.

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