

Summer: brimming with life, prosperity and merriment, it is a season bursting with hilarity and liveliness. Infants, desperate to explore the intricacies that summer brings, thrust open doors to explore the haven that is nature.

Effortlessly emerging from its chrysalis, the butterfly glides through the placid breeze and finds a minute of solitude on a stable leaf; after traipsing through the foliage, the ladybird extends its wings for the first time and embarks on its voyage into the air. Revitalized, the bee departs from the foxglove with an ample supply of pollen. Apart from the intriguing creatures that summer brings, the equatorial climate encourages fatigued businessmen, uptight mothers and restless children into the open air. The open air inspires cheerful picnics and periodic BBQs. Periodic BBQs connect families. Connected families bring jubilation and laughter.

Autumn: flushed with colour, radiance and ambition, it is a season overflowing with adventure and opportunity. Leaves, which have transformed into majestic shades of yellow and orange, begin to drift down to the speckled forest floors. Whilst the attentive animal community prepare for an arduous winter, to their relief, elderberries gallantly cruise downwards to the forest floor.

During the autumnal months, the grace and elegance of nature is truly felt. Peaceful. Tranquil. Serene. Can you imagine a calmer destination than a meadow or woodland? Although this creature is rarely appreciated, the hedgehog is a delicate organism of true beauty. Forever foraging amongst the undergrowth, the extraordinary sighting of a hedgehog is precious. Such creatures should be regarded as amiable beings, despite their distinctive appearance: their affectionate and warm hearted personality is sporadically expressed. Sadly, this is down to the perpetual neglect that they have to suffer from humanity. Refreshing and rejuvenating, the dewy mornings bring spectacles of wonder. Spiders' webs become glistening diamonds and blades of grass transform into shimmering emeralds.

Winter: bursting with hopes, dreams and wonders, it is a season of magnificence and splendour. Whilst the snowflakes daintily flutter to the ground, a pearly blanket of icing sugar begins to form; perfectly sculpted icicles sprout from every ledge and all pools of water seem to fashion a protective surface. Though it may appear unyielding, even the slightest scrape could result in a severe affliction.

Meanwhile, babies, children, adults and grandparents are able to find refuge in the temperate interiors of their homes. Content and harboured from the extreme cold, you sit. The warmth of the frothy hot chocolate (and the flavour of the marshmallows) is a welcome treat, but such a drink is never complete without a spoonful of fresh cream. With the fire blazing and the snowflakes descending, nothing could be more special than a peaceful winter evening in the sanctuary of your own home. Elated, due to an extensive amount of overnight snowfall, children can cheerfully build snow sculptures the next morning.

Spring: the mellow light of day and crisp breeze carries you to an undisturbed world; here, you can understand the stillness that nature brings. Awakening from a winter of confinement, charming snowdrops and vivid daffodils ascend to the surface. After breaking through the almost impenetrable soil, they will release their buds and reveal a breath-taking sight.

Rabbits, such vulnerable creatures, bound merrily from field to field. Whilst tender young chicks acquaint themselves with the outside world¹ their mothers keep a watchful eye over their ignorant offspring.

Unquestionably, it is a stunning world that we live in, no matter what the season.