

## What do we learn about the farmer's bride?

1. Highlight all the words and phrases in the poem that tell us something about the farmer.
2. In a different colour, highlight all the words and phrases that tell us about his wife.
3. Now link the statements about the farmer's bride in the table to the relevant parts of the poem. The first one has been done for you.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When they got married she began to act as though she was scared of him.</li><li>• He thinks she might be a bit young.</li><li>• She stopped smiling.</li><li>• She stopped being like a woman and became more like a fairy or elf.</li><li>• One night she ran away.</li><li>• She changed very suddenly.</li></ul>	<p>Three Summers since I chose a maid, Too young maybe – but more's to do At harvest-time than bide and woo. When us was wed she turned afraid Of love and me and all things human; Like the shut of a winter's day. Her smile went out, and 'twasn't a woman – More like a little, frightened fay. One night, in the Fall, she runned away.</p>

4. Now that you've looked at stanza 1, find more points about the farmer's bride in the rest of the poem and write them on your table.
5. How has the writer used seasons and what is the effect?
6. Highlight all the different colours. Then try to explain them. (Why are the oaks 'brown'? Why is the sky 'gray'? etc.)
7. How is the social and historical context reflected in this poem? (Talk about the institution of marriage.)
8. Look for words that tell us things are closing in. Underline all of these.
9. Look at words to do with movement and stillness. Circle and label these. What is the effect of these?