

It's Summertime Again!

By Marilyn Reeves

Oh, those bright, hot, lazy days of summer that have you outdoors, playing in the sun.
Just be sure to wear your sunscreen, or your skin will burn!
Sittin' in the shade of some grand old tree – reading a book, sipping ice tea.
Rooting for the Boys of Summer. Going to the ballgame, or watching on TV.

Heading up to the mountains to get a breath of fresh air.
Once you arrive, you marvel at how much cooler it is up there.
Sitting on a stream bank, dangling a worm on a hook,
Hoping you'll catch a nice big fish out of that babbling brook.
Hiking up a mountain trail, catching your breath at the top.
Looking back down at the world below and marveling
at all the glorious wonders Mother Nature has bestowed.

The summer heat goes on and on – you think it'll last forever.
But then a cool breeze comes through your window, leaves start swirling in the air.
The trees are changing color – a riot of red and orange and yellow.
Autumn is finally here. Where did the summer go?
Outdoor stadiums packed with viewers. People cheering, shouting at their heroes.
Tailgate parties. Faces painted crazy colors. The fans go wild! Football time is here!

The leaves turn brown, lie soggy on the ground. The air turns bitter cold.
Old Man Winter is on his way, as the calendar has foretold.
Soon everything is covered with a soft, white blanket of snow.
Its crystal white beauty is something to behold!
You bundle up in coats and jackets, put on your boots and gloves,
And head over to the department store.
There are gifts to be purchased – so much to prepare,
For the Holidays are coming!

You days are filled with shopping, baking, decorating.
Your evenings filled with parties – celebrating with your friends.
Then as suddenly as it began, those festive days are at an end.
You take down the tree, put the ornaments away, and settle in –
it's a long, long wait till Spring.

But then eventually, ever so gradually – perhaps towards the end of February,
The stalactites of ice start dripping, crusty snow banks start receding.
And the next thing you know, somewhere out beyond your window, a little bird is chirping.
She's gathering up leaves and twigs, building a nest for her eggs.
And you think, Silly bird! Don't you know it's much too soon?
Don't you know there will be more snow? Oh, I hope you survive the storm!

You go out for a walk and see tiny leaves poking green fingertips out of the ground.
The sap is rising in the trees. Tiny buds form at the tips of their branches.
You watch and wait and hope and pray that in a few weeks there'll be blossoms.
And then one day, if the frost doesn't bite them, they burst forth in a riot of pink.
And then you smile as you think, Spring in all its glory has finally come!
But take care not to blink. It lasts for only a couple of weeks before it all gives way
to Summertime again.