



SUNSHINE STATE STANDARD
 Reading Process
 Benchmark LA.910.1.7.4 Identify cause-and-effect relationships in text.

Comprehension

1. **Recall** How does dropping its leaves in autumn help a tree to survive?
2. **Paraphrase** What does Ackerman mean by autumn’s “stealth”?
3. **Paraphrase** In what sense do the bright colors of autumn “dupe” us?

Critical Analysis

4. **Identify Author’s Purpose** In which parts of her essay is Ackerman’s purpose to explain? to describe? to reflect? Are these purposes compatible? Explain your answer.
5. **Analyze Cause and Effect** Use the cause-and-effect chains you created to explain why leaves turn color and why they fall. Be specific.
6. **Recognize Contrasts** What contrasts are pointed out in the essay? Cite examples.
7. **Analyze Language** Ackerman’s language can be very poetic, filled with sensory **imagery**. Skim the essay and record notable examples. Which examples best describe the **beauty** of fall? Explain your answer.
8. **Interpret Author’s Message** Explain the connection Ackerman sees between fall leaves and human beings. How close does the connection seem to you?
9. **Evaluate Interpretations** One critic has said that Ackerman’s nonfiction is “a creative blend of journalism, science, and poetry; it is her poetic vision that makes her nonfiction so successful.” Would you say that this is true of her essay? Cite evidence to support your answer.

Sensory Imagery

- “Early-morning frost sits heavily...” (lines 4–5)
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