OCTOBER & NOVEMBER ALMANAC

Isabella Smith-Santos
October

Skywatches

October 12, 2022
- I could get a clear view of a bright star as I looked at the night sky tonight
- It was Venus → the second planet from the sun and the sister planet to earth
- It was a waning gibbous for the moon tonight, as it was only a couple of days after the full moon

October 29, 2022
- I was on the way home from my aunt’s 40th birthday party and on the Betsy Ross bridge when I saw the city skyline and the moon
- The buildings were lit up red for the Phillies
- There was a hazy red, waxing crescent moon hanging above the river and watching over Philly
- My grandmother called me to tell me about the moon

October 31, 2022
- I went trick-or-treating at night with my friend and later at night I got to look at the stars briefly as it was very cold
- There were a couple of stars peeking out from the clouds and there was a waxing crescent moon similar to the night before but it wasn’t red this time
- It was still raining from the night before so I did not get to see as many things as I would on a clear night

Nature Observations

October 17, 2022
- I have been viewing the different kinds of trees found in Philadelphia
- In my neighborhood:
  - Maple Trees
  - Ash Trees
  - Oak Trees
  - Fir Trees
  - Elm Trees
- They are also found all throughout Philadelphia, as Masterman actually has cherry blossom trees right out front that blossom in the springtime
- I wonder what kinds of trees are not native to Philadelphia, but have been planted here and grow here anyways

October 18, 2022
- The tree in my backyard (fur tree) has started to lose its leaves and the rest have changed colors as well
- They are a dark and maroon color with traces of orange and dark yellow as well
- The leaves will most likely stay on until November when they will fully be gone the and tree will be bare with no leaves at all
- There are also berries on the branches that are most likely not safe to eat and are orange and red
- Some websites say that they are mountain rush berries but I am not sure as they are bigger than the ones on my tree

October 19, 2022
- I have done more research on what trees have been planted here that are not originally from here
- I found that a couple of types of maple trees are actually invasive species
- There are also a couple of types of mulberry trees that are invasive and many of these species are originally from Asia
- I found this to be very strange as I thought that these were always native species to Philadelphia but are actually invasive and do not belong here
The Witch

When the north wind whistles
And there’s dancing in the thistles
The midnight mistress arrives
Laden in whispers and lies
All throughout the town
The people lay down
All the little children are nestled in
And sleep soon wins
As the night witch preys outside
In the darkness, she hides
And slowly lifts up the window pane
And snatches them for her own gain

Callowhill Street

Callowhill Street was named after William Penn’s second wife, Hannah Callowhill. It is a historic street and there is a plaza located along the street at one point. This land used to contain one of the oldest markets in the city of Philadelphia. It was one of the first suburbs in the city and was owned by Penn’s son. It was sold to different people and houses were built there before the Revolutionary war. Some restrictions prohibited the selling of goods outside of the market. Betz breweries later opened there for some time.

November

Skywatches

November 25, 2022
- I was coming home from going Black Friday shopping with my family
- We went to the Christiana Mall in Delaware and we were on the highway at night for almost 40 minutes
- It was a little cloudy and I couldn't really see any stars
- It was a waxing crescent moon

November 28, 2022
- I came back from the Boys and Girls Club with my friend
- We sat on the porch and played the star game where we try to point out as many stars as we can and see who can find the most
- There were about eight visible stars that night
- I knew that it still had to be a waxing crescent moon as the first quarter moon would occur on the last day of November

November 29, 2022
- I was coming back from the Boys and Girls Club with my friend and sitting on my porch step outside
- It was extremely cold and I did not have my jacket on which was not smart at all as I could not feel my fingers
- We played the star game again and we couldn't see any stars
- I remember seeing the moon a little bit and it looked like a first quarter moon, it could easily have been thought to be it but I still remember that the first quarter moon was on the last day, and it was only the penultimate last day

Nature Observations

November 13, 2022
- I have seen a couple of house spiders in my house but not a lot of spiders outside
- I think this is because the weather is growing colder and many of them are dying off due to not being able to survive the cooler temperatures
- There are a couple in the corner of my staircase walls, and a couple of webs on the trampoline but not as many spiders as there were last year or the year before

November 14, 2022
- I was looking at the grass in my neighborhood and wondered what types of grasses there are
- I believe there is St. Augustine grass in my backyard specifically
- It is a dark green grass that is typically short (we mow it and trim it frequently, however) and is also spiky like the ones in the photo
- There are a lot of patches of dead grass in my yard because of the loss of rain in the past couple of weeks and the weather becoming colder
- We continue to mow the lawn but the grass is not as green anymore

November 16, 2022
- After school, I typically walk to 16th and Callowhill to meet my mom
- As I was walking I saw the grass spot I observe while walking there and wondered about nature taking over industrialization
- When humans are gone, will cities and towns look like this, covered in moss and plants instead of people?
- I would love to see a world where nature has no limits and can freely reclaim what was once there own
- I would also like to see humans and nature living side by side, neither destroying the other
Trampoline

I slide the wireless earbuds in
Fingers stiffening in the cold air
My finger taps play
And instantly I’m soaring above
One jump, two, three four
And I’m gone from the world
Imagining I’m somewhere else as the music fills my head
No matter the sunshine, no matter the rain
I return home from a draining day at school
And flip into my daydreaming
The stress slips away as I pretend I’m in another universe
Then the song ends
The earbuds come out
And I’m back to life

Spring Garden Street

Spring Garden Street was not as active as it was farther from the city’s economical core and the Delaware River which was the main source of commerce. Before 1850, the area around the street was farmland until 1850 when family houses started to be built. The Eastern State Penitentiary was one of four buildings in this area around the time, the rest of the land was mainly privately owned. The construction was stopped/slowed during the Civil War but when it was over three-fourths of the buildings were built out of the 1,400 planned. Iron fences and gates were added as technology advanced, the houses were typically Italianate rows/twins.

Drinking Water

Where does my water come from?

My drinking water comes from the Tacony-Frankford Watershed. The Delaware Watershed includes the city of Philadelphia. The city has watersheds (subwatersheds) which include Tacony-Frankford, Schuylkill, Darby-Cobbs, Pennypack, Wissahickon, and Poquessing:

Map From My House To Tacony-Frankford Watershed
On October 1, 2022, some people celebrate International Music Day. Lord Yehudi Menuhin pushed for this holiday to be created. According to an article, Lord Menuhin wanted this holiday for, "the promotion of our musical art among all sections of society" and, "the application of the UNESCO ideals of peace and friendship between peoples". He believed this would unite people and bring attention to the many different musical talents and artists. The holiday first occurred on October 1, 1975, and Lord Menuhin idealized media stations producing music-related pieces like discussions about music and the publication of artists. This would bring musical artists of different and unique backgrounds to learn from others and create a more united world. The holiday was also planned to ideally cultivate an appreciation of music all over the world.

Surprise!

Autumn Playlist

For my surprise, I chose to share a playlist including songs I listened to during autumn, or just songs I feel fit fall. Enjoy :)