



Halloween Weather

Halloween weather has blown into town,
Crackling the treetops and lighting the frown.
Blankets to fend off the first breath of frost,
Windows bespangled and pumpkins embossed
With autumn's lace filigree nightgown.

That's what I've *heard*, though the west coast's renown
Mandates warm days till our winter drips down.
Autumn avoids us, and yet we've not lost
Halloween weather.

Shadows cut sharper, and spider webs crown
Each spiky palm tree, fronds drooping and brown.
Beaches stretch empty, the sea's shimmer tossed,
Sparkling where salt spray and sunbeams get crossed.
When watery light makes the sky drown?
Halloween weather.

~ Michael H. Payne