

# October Day Salute

*by* Mary Diamond

The duty of a student  
can be summed up in a sentence;

To benefit the race of man  
with thoughtful independence,

To keep the dark of ignorance  
from clouding up our vision,

To stand the watch with vigilance  
and learn from each decision.

We look to you to represent,  
Dear president and tutors,

A lifetime worth of study spent  
from inkwells to computers.

A life which does not disregard  
the benefit of living,

But credits poets, clowns and bards  
the lessons they are giving.

Our courses and our campus  
smack of Liberal Arts forum

But do not for a moment  
lack tradition or decorum.

October day has come again

---

Available online at *«<http://fictionaut.com/stories/mary-diamond/october-day-salute>»*

Copyright © 2010 Mary Diamond. All rights reserved.

and those who gather here,

From those who dare to lift a pen  
to those who lend an ear,

Are welcome now to be a part  
of this inauguration;

Our president, with open heart,  
is welcomed to his station.

