

I Can Be Like Water

Alice said: Be like water, silk strolling along a naked arm
a feather floating across the windshield.
Practice adjusting your perception
until you are comfortable with things as they are.
Stretch & glide through surprise and compromise.
Remember how water moves, adapting to each curve of stone,
how stone is tamed by the current and softened by the stream.
Let go and give yourself up to every tiny, majestic moment.

I remember that afternoon in October along the creek above Taos,
the sun bright and warm as we toasted Alice with cups of boxed white Gallo.
We filled cups also with her ashes.
Bruce & I stood on the bank and threw the beloved dust up & out.
She hung for an instant, pausing to sparkle in the air
before falling into the water.
I wondered how long before she would reach the Rio Grande,
reach the Gulf of Mexico, find her way to the shores of her beloved Majorca.

I felt her say be fluid, be persistent,
morph & change with the constancy of water.

--Ann Weisman, Tulsa

Skinny Dipping

We hike all day in the heat.
Grimy with dust matted to sweat
and tired. When we step out of the woods
we stand on the boulder-strewn
bank of a broad river.

With the quickness of youth
we drop our clothes
and buck naked leap
into the cleansing water
bracing in its disparity
between its temperature and ours.
We revel, we splash,
we swim. Most of us anyway.

Some stand guard with M-16s
as thirty days without a bath bleeds
from our bodies to wash
toward the South China Sea.

--James Thomas Fletcher, Edmond

Endless Sea

Clouds open
Tears fall
Into the ocean deep
Rain whips
Thunder roars
When sky and heaven weep
Waves crash
Sand, shells
Power tide, turtle limps
A gasp, wheeze, tortured sigh
No sound
Plastic all around
The turtle never bothered me
Recycle now
Oceans plead
Thirst, life, trash filled endless sea

--Octavia McKenzie, Tulsa

The Rain Gods

to claw an opening into soil so dry
is an act of faith
or perhaps a gambler's bluff
the weather so unpredictable now

floods and drought
tango barefoot through crops
threatening pantries and bank accounts

but still, mortgaged tractors
drop their prayerful seed
and regather the earth

the farmer waits

for grace
for the well to recharge
for the heavens to open
just enough
to hang on, another year

--Stephanie Jordan, Oklahoma City

The Flood

In the month of May 2019
The water swallowed half of the town
Muskogee was an island then
Only accessible from the mainland by boat
Or, northernmost road

We heard the cows lowing as they drowned
and helplessly watched as two breakaway barges
hurtled towards lock and dam 16
threatening all who lived below it

We shook our heads in surrender, in disbelief
As the old timers reminded us
they'd never seen the water so high

And the rain kept falling
It fell in buckets, in sheets, in droves,
in waves of despair

--Darla Bennett, Muskogee

Holy Water

Driving down a dirt road somewhere, it caught my eye.
I would have missed it, if I had been looking the other way.
Down in the ditch, someone carefully built a shrine to the Virgin Mary,
overlooking a pool of spring fed water.
Limestone rocks laid up without mortar made a ledge to hold a tin cup.
I climbed down to the grotto and took a drink.
Holy water.
I tracked the dirt from my boots to my garden.
I breathed the air that blows the trees by that place.
The water runs in my veins.
And a sacred spark glows as the fireflies drift over the back fence.

--Iris Craver, Lawrence KS

I Sat On the Beach Once

I sat on the beach once
My knees in my arms, cool water lapping at my feet
I swam in the lake once
Opaque pool up to my waist, cold and mysterious
I stood in the rain once
Heavy drops piercing my skin

I sometimes think
"What will happen next"
Will water engulf the earth?
Or will there be not a drop left?

What will happen next?

I sat on the beach once
Surrounded by garbage and dying creatures
I swam in the lake once
Dying with every glass bottle discarded into it
I stood in the rain once
It never rains as much as it used to

What will happen next?

--Laynee Wessel, Stillwater

Water: Life or Death

I can give life,
But I can also take it.

I'm graceful and majestic,
But I can be turbulent as well.

I can create wonders around the world,
But I can also destroy them with one sweep.

People enjoy my satiny cool waves,
But I don't enjoy the abundance of trash.

People enjoy my smooth fresh taste,
But I don't enjoy the taste of their oil.

People enjoy my power to help grow crops,
But I don't enjoy their pesticides in my rivers.

If you want your kids and grand kids to enjoy my waves,
Stop polluting my bodies.

If you want your kids and grand kids to enjoy my the marvelous animals I hold,
Stop dumping your trash, oil, and pesticides in me.

If you want your kids and grand kids to enjoy drinking me,
Stop destroying me.

Either you can help protect me,
Or you can help destroy me.

Either you can help clean me,
Or you can help dirty me.

Either you can help save me,
Or you will help kill me.

--Harley Lee, Bluejacket

Clean Water, Nasty Water

It makes me happy
the cold creek
How emotionless is just this thing,
To get me wondering if the creek is cold-blooded.

Pay attention to the pool,
the pool is the most swimmable of all.
Does the pool make you shiver?
Does it?

When I think of the sewage,
the sewage is dirty. the sewage is nasty,
the sewage is stinky.

Grand Lake is cold and nasty,
It reminds me of a sewer,
It is has everything a sewer has and more,

--Hayden Jones, Bluejacket

Honorable Mention: 9th-12th Grade

Water Poem

It is clean yet dirty
It is blue yet clear
It is relaxing and peaceful yet choppy
It is gentle yet wild
It is shallow yet deep
It is cold yet warm
It is rolling, tumbling, running
It is serene and beautiful
It is moisturizing and hydrating
It is everywhere and wavy
It is sparkling and wet
It is water!

--Taegan Smallwood, Locust Grove

Honorable Mention: 9th-12th Grade

Water

The water shapes
our landscape.

It makes
our mountains.

It makes
our canyons.

The water splits
our countries apart.

It pushes
the land.

--Riley Macy, Grove

Water

With Water,
She was Life.
By Sea and by Lake
She was one with herself
And she felt finally awake.
She was strong
And she was where she belonged
No wave or Destruction
Could take away
How she truly felt,
By the Ocean.

--Zoe Easky, Locust Grove

The Traits of Water

Calm, violent, disastrous, reflective,
Pretty, the key to nature,
The heart of life, water.
Water, home to many creatures.

From the Pacific to the Atlantic.
Only the bravest
Dive into the ocean of mystery
Or the craziest

Fascinating, the art of
Mystery
The story of adventure
Is what makes up
Water

--Jackson Barres, Locust Grove

Rain

Fearlessly falling from the sky,
Like a soldier falling from a plane,
Rushing in to battle the dry earth,
Soon to fall and begin the quest.
It seeps into the earth searching,
Seeking for multitudes of vegetation.
Liquid troops searching for the weak,
Liquid troops increasing life.
Life continues from the gift,
All gain from their sacrifice.

--Hannah Coffelt, Locust Grove

Honorable Mention: 5th-8th Grade

Water

Cold, icy, warm in the sun
I play in it when summer has begun
Some people drink it
Some people don't
Sometimes when you lay in it
You will float
Water is important
Water is healthy
Pretty sure when spies drink it
They are stealthy.

--Almirah Nguyen, Locust Grove

Honorable Mention: 5th-8th Grade

Water Dance of the Dogs

On a hot day
When the water is cool
My Grandma and I
Go to cool the dogs.
Upon our arrival
The dogs are ready to fly high.
As the water exits the hose,
A most unusual dance begins.
As the dogs soar high in the sky,
They flip, twist, and spin
And all enjoy the show.

Water Dance of the Dogs.

--Aydin Colvin, Locust Grove

1st Place: K-4th Grade

Water Ways

Pools, oceans, and ground, too
Water ways almost everywhere
River, lakes and yes ponds, too
Water is great
Spring water, drinking water
Faucet water, bottled water
Everyone loves water
Tub water, shower water and bubble bath water
Water to make you clean
Water slides, water guns and water parks
Water ways

--Adeline Yates, Locust Grove

Water

My shirt's about water:
There's a pocket of water
On my shirt with sharks.

Sharks go in water.
Whales go in water.
People like to swim in water.
Water shoes can go in water.

The water gets hot.
Water gets cold.

I like to drink water.
I like to swim in water.
I like to look at the water.
I like to look at the rain.

That's it!
That's great with water.

--Silas Jackson, Grove

3rd Place: K-4th Grade

Ocean Creatures

Sharks

Crabs

Squid

Shrimp

Octopus

Cuttlefish

Sea turtles

Whale

Dolphin

Narwhal

Penguin

Flamingo

Fish

Seagull

Pelican

Jellyfish

Eel

Manatee

Ocean creatures

--Ezer Gregory, Oklahoma City