

The River

Golden brown flowing water
that smells of old tea moving over
slightly sulfuric sand

carrying fish with teeth
and single celled threats

bikes along the bank
quickly dropped and twisted

as we take turns
jumping
and splashing
while hidden creatures
stare at us
from behind the same plant species
that unknown extinct animals

ignored like we did

millions of years earlier

Kid Town

The cotton mouth
put an end to our make believe town

where the doctors, engineers,
architects, teachers
were all children
who helped each other
make medicine from plants,
construct every stick structure
and damp house
in a humid haze

where town hall meetings
counted the community votes
of small raised hands

disrupting the young utopia,
a single venomous snake
wrecked the realty

and our little town in the woods
became haunted with vines, bugs
and the memory of a time
when we all got along

Saved Us All

Biological bolts of electricity
shot through
the cylindrical form
causing the snake's body to writhe
without a head to anchor its purpose
as the arrogant man's proud face
displayed the message
that he saved us all

which I found to be as upsetting
as the forced face of the serpent
permanently shocked and violated

Hidden Lake

Laces tied loose with bunny ear loops
and briars on socks and shoes

through the sharp grass
passed the discarded building
where the glass is grated into white

where we swing from rafters
with splinters on fingers
scrapes on skin

where we curse and tease
to show our maturity
but we never dare swim in the lake

Pretty Eyes

With our little fingers for visors
and faces winced nearly closed
the game paused for a car
the color of reflected pink heat

the driver had blood raw eyes
in pools of purple and tangerine
who tells us her face will heal soon
and it will all be worth it

to have her eye shadow
permanently tattooed

I distinctly remember thinking
as I looked at her violet violence
how badly I wanted
to get back to the game