

A Letter from my Riparian Friend

Just as your body is made of skin and bone,
Mine is made of warm desert sands and stone.
As your body has blood that carries nutrients in arteries of red,
Mine is fed from an underground aquifer and cyclic watershed.
As the blustery spring breeze blows through your hair,
It arouses my grassy tresses with a seed-spreading flair.
While we are similar and rely on each other (as close friends do),
You keep me safe and clean, and I exhale oxygen for you.

During your visit with me today,
Did you see busy ants, lazy lizards, and happy fish play?
Did you touch the cottonwood tree, or try to skip that smooth river rock?
Did you hear a songbird or buzzing bees on your walk?
Did you smell the pungent algae, clean dirt, and flowers?
How much time did we spend together, was it minutes or hours?

I hope we can visit again soon and lovingly converse.
Until then, may our family and friendships be diverse,
May our diets be rich in nutrients, clean water, and sunshine,
And our friendship respectful, long-lived, and mindfully divine!

Tabatha Solberg