

2021

## Riverbed Blues

Kit Evans

kevans17@mail.wou.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.wou.edu/pure>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Evans, Kit (2021) "Riverbed Blues," *PURE Insights*: Vol. 10 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.wou.edu/pure/vol10/iss1/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Scholarship at Digital Commons@WOU. It has been accepted for inclusion in PURE Insights by an authorized editor of Digital Commons@WOU. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@wou.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@wou.edu), [kundas@mail.wou.edu](mailto:kundas@mail.wou.edu), [bakersc@mail.wou.edu](mailto:bakersc@mail.wou.edu).

---

## Riverbed Blues

### Abstract

a poem

### Keywords

poetry

## Riverbed Blues

**Kit Evans**, Western Oregon University  
Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Henry Hughes**

*Keywords:* Peter Sears Poetry Prize, poetry

Early mornings, before leaving  
to labor long hours, my father  
painted rivers at our kitchen table.  
Hammer-hardened hands guided  
brushes full of blues over banks  
and stones. He was drowning  
on those banks, I know.

On days I should have been reading,  
feeding my waterlogged brain,  
paddling ducks and slippery rocks  
sat substitute for Ben Franklin's virtues.  
Drinking beer, yanking bluegill from  
beneath lily-pad lies with a cheap pole  
bought by burger money.

The first four I freed, each slipping  
gently between wet hands back to  
cool shadows. The fifth glittering bream  
didn't make it there, left hooked  
to flop brilliant flashes of desperation.  
*Drown with me, Blue.*  
I was that lonely.