

**Henry Bernard**  
**Grade 5**  
**[Highlands School]**  
**Birmingham, AL**

## **Alabama River**

I swim in the hot sun,  
Drenched with cool water  
In the river near our house,

Swim with the fierce current  
In the L-shaped bend of the river,  
Dive off the rocks  
Into the freezing water,  
Watch my dog swim,  
Shaking the water off his sleek coat of fur.

I swim to the rocks with my family,  
Jump off the narrow ledge that  
Towers above the river,  
Splash into the water,  
And climb back up the rock to try again.

Swim in the cool water  
Near my house  
In the L-shaped bend of the river,  
In the fierce current that  
Drowns out all other sounds,  
Like a muffler.

Swim in the river that roars over the rocks  
Slowly pulverizing them  
As I play  
Like a puppy  
In the swift current  
Of the Alabama River.