A Collection of Creative Writing Inspired by Bushkill Creek

Eng 351 Environmental Writing, Spring 2016 Prof Alix Ohlin

The Bushkill Creek

by Samantha Volk

Stagnation, a trunk disappearing into dark water branches stiff and blossoming petals afraid to be stung by cool air.

Motion,

currents ripping at roots
and erupting over stones
guiding life and debris alike
white born from a brown blur
while
the
trunk
stands
tall.

Bushkill Creek Poem

Katie Weeks

At first, the serenity is dazzling. Just 50 feet north of Route 22, just 50 yards below the stress, the homework, the never-ending GroupMe notifications that await back in reality.

The Bushkill is momentary. A creek that divides an already divisible city. Life and time seem suspended. The car horns and LCAT shuttle rattle feel distant despite their proximity.

But then a car flies past on the one-way road running parallel to the water, snapping runners and walkers out of their serene daze as they pull headphones from their ears and mentally question the speed limit.

"Danger Dam" reads a sign on the left. Wawa wrappers, empty gatorade bottles, caution tape and Milwaukee Best Ice reveal humanity in the natural scenery. Cigarettes long smoked, and fishing poles long used lay broken.

The trance fragments, leaving pieces of relaxation nestled within the bait cans and styrofoam coffee cups. Another car comes flying by and this time you're tempted to wave them down because the walk back up is always more daunting than the walk away.

The Banks

By Bethany Rack

Its path is reckless and fearless, carved into the landscape over many centuries of flow. From the banks, erosion exposes spaghetti roots, like matted hairs that have been tangled and twisted after a restless nights slumber. The smell of decaying earth permeates through the air, bringing new life to the valley. Leaves float down the river, like a thousand life rafts for god's smallest creatures. A pool of shark fins make for rough water, foaming at the mouth like a rabid hound. Sediments race down the riverbed, eventually to kiss the sea.