

# UC Merced

## The Vernal Pool

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Train Ride

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Peer reviewed|Undergraduate

Train Ride  
By Robert Morales

To the right an orchard of white flowers blooming. To the  
Left a sea of barren branches,  
I pass through the middle, dividing.

The tranquil cows devour the same lands they grow:  
Open fields, youthful trees, Cerulean Lakes,  
Sheet metal shacks, crudely built fences.

A sardonic, screeching, suspenseful halt.  
Some get off, others get on.  
Yet this metal song continues along.

A woman applies oils to her hair  
An energetic kid playing games on his phone  
And I, I write this.

A train ride in the countryside  
Sights to savor  
Don't enjoy it too much  
Our stop is here.