

# UC Merced

## The Vernal Pool

### Title

Recollecting Thoughts

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### Author

Alvarado, Natalia

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Peer reviewed|Undergraduate

Recollecting Thoughts  
By Natalia Alvarado

2:45 pm

Reads the clock on the dashboard.

Running her hands

Softly through the cracks

Of the scaly

Sun-damaged steering wheel.

Her eyes lock to the red light,

That doesn't stop time,

Instead, it's makes the wait more agonizing

With the screaming children in the back.

The blow of a hand striking a cheek

Elicits a hyena's shriek from one,

And a wailing siren from another

Overbears Gloria Trevi's singing.

Her mind fades to when she was young

And didn't have to worry about anyone else...

Reminiscing on the *bailles* she loved going to,

And the spontaneous road trips she wished to retake.

A Hot Cheeto flies across the seat  
Hitting the back of her head.

2:45 pm

Reads the clock on the dashboard.

She ties her hair up,

Turns the knob,

*A mí me gusta tener el pelo suelto*

*Me gusta todo lo que sea misterio*

At most, the music will drown them,

Something she cannot find herself to do.