



I am Natalie Christine Wilson,
living the first day
of the rest of my life

I am a child of nature

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, there are dark rocks in the water. In the middle ground, a wooden pier extends across the water, with several silhouettes of people standing on it. The water reflects the colors of the sky.

Tall crooked trees
wind felt at my back
this is how I live my life
Breathe in fresh air
water so blue
letting go of all the strife

Sand between my toes
birds' song in my ear
sun upon my face
Hike the mountain
wade the stream
wish to be no other place

Rocks warmed from the sun
sky pink with delight
long grass sways with the breeze
Waves gently gather
chimpanzees find a resting place
mind at complete ease

Sense of sight fades
loons call out their presence
stars overwhelm the sky
Bullfrogs croak
foxes so social
nocturnal playground tells no lie

Sun slowly wakens
dew embraces all that's green
new day about to start
Freshness coaxes those who sleep
new beauty to admire
content is my heart

Day is done
sun meets the treeline
glowbugs light the air
Fire burns
logs crackle
Smell of smoke leaves me with no cares

-N. W., 2006

I am a childhood cancer survivor

The race has begun
All the children frolic playfully
Some trying harder than others
To keep up with the pace

Lap 1, 2, 3 and 4
I am enjoying myself
Skiipping gily, I am near the front
Others start to pass but I quickly catch up

As I surpass lalp 10 I am getting tired
I'm below average speed
Many are funning ahead of me
I can't seem to catch up

Halfway through lap 11 I stop
Out of breath and energy
I watch as the others carry on
I am weak and feel unable to continue

Hearing the children laugh I feel useless
They are now on lap 12 while I am still stuck
Trapped within myself
I am no longer living but simply existing

Every so often the children will stop to help
They'll pull me up and carry me along
But soon I become a burden to them
And I am once again left alone, trapped

The young adults are nearing lap 13
I feel a bit of energy, a bit of strength
Standing up on my weak legs I feel pain
Soon I fall back down to the ground

I reach for something or someone to pull myself back up
So many people surround me
Grabbing for them they slip through my fingers not stopping
They don't want to lose the race

Finally somewhere around lap 14 I stand on my own
Walking slowly at first on my spindly legs
Others watch from behind them as I try to catch up
A few scoff as I am walking my fastest which is so slow

All the young adults sprint ahead to finish the biggest race of
their lives
Some give their pity but I refuse it smiling
They are puzzled, wondering how I could be happy losing such a race
They don't realize I have already won

-N.W., 1998

About Me



My name is Natalie, and I am 23 years old. I live in Newmarket, Ontario, with my dad. I have an older sister and carry the memory of my mother in my heart. I am a recent graduate from Brock University, with a Social Sciences honours degree in Child and Youth Studies, with a focus on children with exceptionalities. I have worked with children with all abilities, in a camp setting, for the past seven years. I hope to become a Child Life Specialist, to improve the psychosocial health of young people. I love writing, camping, playing the piano, knitting, crocheting, and being around friends and family who are special to me.