

**LEARNING ASSISTANCE & SPECIAL
EDUCATION PRIMARY**

Winner

Jayden Wilson

Katherine School of the Air
KATHERINE NT

Nelson Springs – My home.

It is daybreak.
Sunrise -
the dawn is shattering and the silence passes.
Native birds are looking hungrily for survival food -
Soaring, wild, wedged tail eagles,
Screeching, noisy, red-tailed cockatoos,
Bouncing, active, grey brolgas,
Chorusing, together, black & white magpies,
Perched, bush turkeys
Whistling -
Racing -
Hovering -
my alarm clock!
It makes me feel hungry as well.

I love the quiet -
the fresh smell of, breezy, seasonal rain.
In the stock camp
counting big horned, brindle, scrub cattle
floury, fine, red, bulldust floating in the dry air.

Drinking hurriedly -
fresh, cool, dripping water from the nearby spring –
dancing wildly
and furiously over smooth, limestone boulders.

Our Negri River fed by the ever, flowing Sterling
River -

both deep, wide, bending ,skipping down to the
lake.
Flowing aggressively
and quickly
to the vast Ord -
into boundless, diamond, blue Lake Argyle.
Fish – white, big, juicy, bream, silver, grey catfish,
Ancient, ridged, concealed crocodiles - protecting
their precious eggs
Flowering white gums,
paper bark shedding its seasonal cracking skin,
yellow, orange flowering prickly pear trees,
grazing cattle, newborn calves, fat steers,
scaly, black-headed, rock pythons.
Goannas, wild buffalo, feral pigs, big, shiny
brumbies -
sharing our lonely land.

Stunning, scenic sunsets,
everything is humid -
I wish I could get closer to the sun to feel it more.

Natural, open spaces -
The cool, evening breeze on my young, smooth
cool, brown skin -
Nelson Springs,
My home,
My country –
Forever.

Judges' Comment:

This is a very good poem which observes carefully the landscape of the writer's world at daybreak. He writes from a knowledge of the experience. The piece flows well and shows a sense of colour and sound, especially sound. Well done. What does it mean "to get closer to the sun", especially so in the NT? Why would you want to do that? The ending could be stronger. As it is, the writing drifts away, somewhat.