

## Writing by the Lake

Little birds  
species unknown  
hunt and peck the ground below.

A sign towers above them:  
NO SWIMMING  
NO BATHING  
AT ALL.

Behind them, the water;  
reflective  
gently rippling.  
Ducks scudding by, silently.

The birds move on,  
peeping commands  
flanking the grass.  
Casting strange shadows in the setting sun.

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MMIV