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## Fishing for Salamanders

Michael Stevens

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Two poems by **Michael Stevens****Fishing for Salamanders**

Just off the river's edge  
 among aspens and big-tooth maples,  
 clear water from last night's rain  
 sits atop the silty mud and rotting leaves,  
 a narrow pond just waiting to be murkied.

Shadows and sun-sparkles  
 vie for dominance  
 as the shifting winds  
 wiggle and wave the leaves.

Pale-faced salamanders,  
 firmish egg whites with legs,  
 meander through the maze of  
 spongy algae and water-logged bark,  
 peering at each other  
 with distant, worried looks  
 questioning the three solid shadows above.

Three skinny boys  
 perch a hair's breadth  
 above the water  
 on a wobbly fallen branch—  
 young birds of prey  
 fishing for salamanders  
 with waxed paper cups.