

## HOLE IN THE WATER

There –  
under the bed of lily pads.  
Silver and gold sparks dart,  
like the arcs of a blowtorch  
reflected in the water.  
A school of shiners in a deadly serious game  
of life or death.  
For now, they elude the black bass  
that stalk them for supper.  
They escape the man in the boat  
whose net is poised for a throw  
over the hole in the water.  
Drama! Fate!  
Three vying in their private arenas;  
bubbles of drama in a lake of chaos.  
Will the bass catch the shiners?  
Will the net snag them?  
Or will they skirt free  
for another chance  
in the game?