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## Commentary on "An Unattainable Past"

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**Commentary by Michelle Oyakawa  
'09, Sociology/Anthropology and Philosophy**

*Reading this piece, I was immediately drawn in by the strong opening that captures the reader's interest and establishes the writer's voice. Throughout the narrative, Evan Pugh employs an extensive vocabulary and uses language creatively to describe his changing relationship with nature. This is a skill that will no doubt be honed throughout his time at Denison. I find this to be a particularly creative and unique response to the prompt, which asked the writer to describe his relationship with nature. The reader is taken on a journey full of imagery through the sensory experiences of childhood and the changing mental processes of the writer during this time. The most striking part of this piece that really sets it apart is its conceptual depth. The entire narrative can be taken either as a well-written description of one person's individual relationship with nature, or as a metaphor for the processes of growing up and humankind's mastery over nature. This piece goes beyond simply responding to the prompt and provides an insightful window into both the writer's life experience as well as to larger themes that will continue to be explored by writers for many years.*