

Name: Emily Villa
School: Ascension Catholic

A Morning on the Bayou

Have you ever dreamed of the perfect morning? A morning where the breathtaking sights seem to fade away all your troubles? A morning where you feel life can't get any better? A relaxing morning resting on a wooden porch with a steaming cup of coffee on the exotic bayou is a perfect way to sit back and enjoy God's mysterious creations.

As you take your first step onto the dilapidated boardwalk, a musty aroma surrounds the air and a humid, thick cloak envelopes you. As you saunter on, the old boards creak below with each step. A thick fog lingers over the murky, tranquil water. The staggering sight of the calm, untouched water and the moss blowing in a slight breeze as it hangs from the cypress trees gives a welcoming appearance. In the distance you can hear the fluttering of birds' wings as they try to catch early morning critters. *Plunk!* You watch as an elegant, white egret gracefully dives into the water, and scoops up a meager fish for his early morning breakfast. The squawk of greedy crows rings through the morning air as they battle over food for their young. You settle on a wooden rocking chair, and close your eyes and count your blessings knowing that it would not be long until this morning spell, just like the thick mass of fog, would soon vanish as the day begins.

Glancing around, the sun's rays begin to barely peep through the darkened clouds making the fresh dew drops glisten on the wild moss. With the slightest smell of dead fish and freshly brewing coffee, a chill climbs up your spine as you realize life gets no better than this. Baby birds begin to chirp loudly, while their parents scavenge for food. It seems as though the world

has not yet awakened from its deep sleep. You know this feeling won't last much longer, and you take one last breath, taking it all in. A new day is about to begin once more.

The sound of a boat engine suddenly echoes over the bayou's water waking all the bayou's sleepy creatures. Fishermen wave as they pass, ready to start off a long day. The final rays of sunlight shine fully in the sky. A stealthy alligator slowly makes his way across the bayou, but quickly sinks beneath the water as a disruptive boat speeds by. The waves from the boat thrash themselves onto the bayou's bank. The cypress knees appear, and then disappear as the waves wash over them, and then recede back again. A single child's cry upon awakening signals the beginning of another wearisome day. You then slowly retreat back into the house to join the rest of the world in opening their sleepy eyes.

Submitted by Emily Villa