

**LEARNING ASSISTANCE & SPECIAL  
EDUCATION PRIMARY**

**Winner**

**Jayden Wilson**

Katherine School of the Air  
KATHERINE NT

**Nelson Springs – My home.**

It is daybreak.  
Sunrise -  
the dawn is shattering and the silence passes.  
Native birds are looking hungrily for survival food -  
Soaring, wild, wedged tail eagles,  
Screeching, noisy, red-tailed cockatoos,  
Bouncing, active, grey brolgas,  
Chorusing, together, black & white magpies,  
Perched, bush turkeys  
Whistling -  
Racing -  
Hovering -  
my alarm clock!  
It makes me feel hungry as well.

I love the quiet -  
the fresh smell of, breezy, seasonal rain.  
In the stock camp  
counting big horned, brindle, scrub cattle  
floury, fine, red, bulldust floating in the dry air.

Drinking hurriedly -  
fresh, cool, dripping water from the nearby spring –  
dancing wildly  
and furiously over smooth, limestone boulders.

Our Negri River fed by the ever, flowing Sterling  
River -

both deep, wide, bending ,skipping down to the  
lake.  
Flowing aggressively  
and quickly  
to the vast Ord -  
into boundless, diamond, blue Lake Argyle.  
Fish – white, big, juicy, bream, silver, grey catfish,  
Ancient, ridged, concealed crocodiles - protecting  
their precious eggs  
Flowering white gums,  
paper bark shedding its seasonal cracking skin,  
yellow, orange flowering prickly pear trees,  
grazing cattle, newborn calves, fat steers,  
scaly, black-headed, rock pythons.  
Goannas, wild buffalo, feral pigs, big, shiny  
brumbies -  
sharing our lonely land.

Stunning, scenic sunsets,  
everything is humid -  
I wish I could get closer to the sun to feel it more.

Natural, open spaces -  
The cool, evening breeze on my young, smooth  
cool, brown skin -  
Nelson Springs,  
My home,  
My country –  
Forever.

*Judges' Comment:*

*This is a very good poem which observes carefully the landscape of the writer's world at daybreak. He writes from a knowledge of the experience. The piece flows well and shows a sense of colour and sound, especially sound. Well done. What does it mean "to get closer to the sun", especially so in the NT? Why would you want to do that? The ending could be stronger. As it is, the writing drifts away, somewhat.*