

Burley Lagoon

Valli Iva Rebsamen

When did those boys turn to bodies?
We really ought to know.
Was it where their kayak left the sand,

Or was it later, in the quick green undertow?
Blue officers with their canine crew and two families flat with fear,
Had their boys turned to bodies?

Were they laughing at their lives, grateful for the storm that
Wet their hair so thoroughly, those boys who never came home
To where their kayak left the sand?

The first, an expert lover,
The second—he was to be a fishing man.
Why did those boys turn to bodies?

Their mothers beg to know—
Always warning, now forever to fret the shove of a heel—
When their boys' kayak left the sand.

Shoes found far from bloated feet
Now only oysters can entertain
When those boys turned to bodies
Where their kayak left the sand.