Johnnie Jones

Anna Leahy*
It was the first day of spring.
The day was hot; the river
was cold.

Mr. Jones fed his cattle.
Johnnie’s mother grilled salmon
for lunch.

Johnnie Jones ditched school. He ran
from town, down to the water
to swim.

He had a girlfriend named Sue,
was six one, and got a C.
in math.

He stripped down to his skivvies
and jabbed his toes into the
river.

He dove soundly and deep down,
hammered his head hard on rock,
and died.

The next day was the second
day of spring. Trees were burdened
with buds.