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Catherine Greenwood

# The River's Edge

Where the battered metal boat is  
waiting, tethered to saplings that cling  
to the steep, disintegrating shoreline.  
With sly insistence the river  
slurps at the aluminum keel like  
a dog worrying a well-gnawed bone.

Sluggish, its thoughts are clogged  
with silt, a sludge of liquified land slid  
down from the dugs. Crossing the river's  
recall is the putter of an outboard motor,  
a presence persistent and annoying  
as a cloud of midges. They are on the tip

of its tongue: *muddy leaves, dead  
twigs*. The river turns them over in its mind.