

# The River of Dreams

*By Ruby      aged 13*

The dictionary defines a river as - 'A large, natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea.' But as you will discover, The River Holme, is so much more than that.

It's sunset. Humans have retreated to their homes for the night. Dusk is rapidly falling. All is perfectly peaceful....

Oh no it's not!! Not on our river that's for sure!! A rustle in the leaves here, a squeak there and a splash over there. The animals seem to be preparing for something. Foraging for food maybe? Looking for a suitable bed for the night? No, they are getting ready for showtime! A stunning musical spectacular is about to be performed by the river creatures while the woodland animals spectate. There is excitement in the air as the bunnies and badgers, dormice and deer, hedgehogs and hares, foxes and frogs and all the other creatures settle down for the daily extravaganza that's about to begin.

The moon makes an appearance first to give light for the show and the fireflies and glow worms help out to provide just the right ambience.

The toads create rhythm with their snappy back beat and a choir of ducks sing 'River of Dreams'....

*"We all end in the ocean, We all start in the streams*

*We're all carried along, By the river of dreams*

*In the middle of the night...."*

Their three-part harmonies created by the different sounds of the Drake Mallards, the female ducks and the cute ducklings are astounding.

Next up is the heron singing 'This is Me.' She spends so much time alone on the river and doesn't have friends so feels a bit of an outcast. Therefore, this song is perfect for her and once she is in her spotlight, all her insecurities melt away as she croons this fabulous number....

*"When the sharpest words wanna cut me down  
Gonna send a flood gonna drown 'em out  
I am brave, I am bruised, I am who I'm meant to be  
This is me"*

The crowd goes wild with applause and realise they maybe haven't included her as much as they could.

The otters take centre stage next and perform an original, cheeky rap with the help of the beat boxing toads. Theirs is a rap with a message to the humans.

*"YOUR LITTER, YOUR TAT  
IT'S NOT FOR OUR HABITAT!"*

The beautiful, rarely seen, kingfishers now perform their shy rendition of 'Shallow' to their captive audience....

*"Crash through the surface, where they can't hurt us  
We're far from the shallow now"*

The evening's entertainment draws to a close and it's time for the grand finale.

'Cry Me A River' plays while all the fish from far and wide perform the most spectacular synchronised swimming display that anyone has ever seen.

The whole ensemble take a bow together to rapturous applause then in a flash the creatures disperse to their dwellings and it is as though it never happened.

But we all know that it did....