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## Climbing along the River

William Stafford

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**Climbing Along  
the River**

*by William Stafford*

Willows never forget how it feels  
to be young.

Do you remember where you came from?  
Gravel remembers.

Even the upper end of the river  
believes in the ocean.

Exactly at midnight  
yesterday sighs away.

What I believe is,  
all animals have one soul.

Over the land they love  
they crisscross forever.

