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Dear Duck-Billed Platypus

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Dear Duck-Billed Platypus

Abstract

This piece is a concrete poem that both shows and describes the platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*).

Keywords

Zoology, platypus, Ornithorhynchidae, Australia, poetry, concrete poetry

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Dear Duck-Billed Platypus

Michael Leach. School of Rural Health. Monash University, Australia

Your
beaverish
tail stores a
healthy mass
of fatty tissue
—about 40%
of the fat in
your whole
body. Your otter
& your otter-like fur
help you to swim and
stay warm, respectively.

You are a chimera made
flesh—an Aussie animal
humans once thought to
be a hybrid or a hoax.
You are now known
as a wonder of nature:
the sole survivor of the
Ornithorhynchidae
family and 1 of 5
monotremes.

Your duck
-like bill is
filled with
receptors
sensing
prey.

-like webbed feet *-like webbed feet* *-like webbed feet*