



## J. Laskey

Damn you, Claud.  
Why'd ya hafta go and drown?

I already drowned, so Ma and Pa aren't gonna be too happy with you.  
I guess Katie won't be going near the water anytime soon.

How'd you drown?  
I was swimming with George Keefer,  
and there was an undercurrent that pulled me down.  
George was too scared to try and help.  
I remember his Pa whipped him raw -  
He still had bandages at my funeral.

Alice Lovewell scolded me awful good when I came here.  
She told me that I ought've been more careful.  
Old Man Moody just scowled, and said I wasted a good life.

The only one who didn't say nothin' 'bout my dyin' early was Mary Gale,  
but I suppose that's 'cause she can't say nothin' -  
she's just a baby.

It ain't lonely here though, if you're worried 'bout that.  
We got plenty kids who've died stupider deaths than you and I.

I think Nehemiah died choking on some candy.  
Serves him right. 'Twas stolen.

Anyways, I'll bet Reverend Moulton'll be preachin' the dangers of that river for years to come.  
It's a shame, that river was always fun to swim in.

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