**This Is A Photograph Of Me**

**By Margaret Atwood**  
  
It was taken some time ago.  
At first it seems to be  
a smeared  
print: blurred lines and grey flecks  
blended with the paper; then, as you scan  
it, you see in the left-hand corner  
a thing that is like a branch: part of a tree  
(balsam or spruce) emerging  
and, to the right, halfway up  
what ought to be a gentle  
slope, a small frame house. In the background there is a lake,  
and beyond that, some low hills. (The photograph was taken  
the day after I drowned. I am in the lake, in the [center](http://www.eliteskills.com/c/12002)  
of the picture, just under the surface. It is difficult to say where  
precisely, or to say  
how large or small I am:  
the effect of water  
on light is a distortion but if you look long enough,  
eventually  
you will be able to see me.)