

“An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” By Ambrose Bierce

Part I –

7. Soldiers on a bridge about to hang a man
8. Guarding each end of the bridge
9. Very quiet
10. 35 year old civilian planter stands with his hands and feet tied upon the bridge
11. Hears the ticking of his watch
12. Sergeant steps off the plank . . .

Part II-

1. Soldier dressed in gray rides up.
2. Mrs. Farquhar gives him a glass of water.
3. Soldier tells him about the order to hang anyone who disturbs the bridge.
4. Farquhar asks if the bridge is guarded.
5. The bridge would be easy to burn.
6. The man they thought was a Confederate soldier is really a Union scout.

Part III – after the sergeant steps aside –

13. Feels pain and sense of suffocation
14. The rope breaks and he hits the water
15. Frees himself from the ropes
16. Swims to the surface
17. Feels a heightened sense of awareness
18. The soldiers are shooting at him
19. Hears the soldier’s voice say “Ready, Aim, Fire”
20. Dove down but could still hear and feel the firing
21. The soldiers are shooting the cannon.
22. He gets caught in a whirlpool (vortex) and spun around and flung out of the stream.
23. Sees the plants and trees, hears heavenly music
24. Follows a wide straight road – headed home
25. His neck hurt, tongue swollen, the grass felt soft
26. Couldn’t feel the road beneath his feet
27. At the gate of his home
28. Reaches for his wife
29. Blinding flash of light
30. Payton Farquhar swings back and forth on the bridge