

Sonnet Scroll

Dolphins in the Hudson River

By M. Brooke Wiese

At 2:10 this afternoon, three
dolphins swam upriver from the Lower
Bay through The Narrows, to the Upper
Bay, past piers awash in plastic bottles and debris,
past ferries and yachts and the city's grandees
in their living rooms overlooking the river
where the setting sun shone like melted butter
on three dorsal fins bound for Albany.

Perhaps they were tailing the humpback whale
seen breaching off The Heights a week ago
in the briny tidal estuary, *Mahicantuck*—
The River That Flows Two Ways; the sailors' grail;
the *first* Trail of Tears. Perhaps they'll follow
northward to the river's source before heading back.