

Wilderness House Literary Review 2/1

"Copper Mine Kids"

The family's mobile home sat above
the lake of orange dust and pools

of darker sludge, one of many trailers
tucked behind a thick curtain of pines

on the Copper Mine Road, homes
that sprang from the acidic soil

and stood shoulder to shoulder
with the long abandoned buildings

that leaned and sagged, buildings
that collectively made up the mine. I

saw the Copper Mine Kids just once,
at the TLC Pond. The two boys had

oversized heads and no hair, had their
heads been shaved? They had little

round bellies, one wore anemic red
shorts and the other blue jeans, their skin

was copper tinged – they appeared
to be glowing. The two boys ran across

the sand and bounded into the yellow
-green water, a crackled film of orange

encircled them wherever they waded
or swam. Most of us fled the water

and looked on in horror and disbelief
as the Copper Mine Kids began to dissolve.