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5th-grade honorable mention  
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## The Reason I Feel Close to Nature

Tweet, tweet, tweet, splash! That's the sound of birds in the trees and the distant echo of neighbors' children jumping into the water.

Spring is the best time of year. I feel like I'm close to nature in Franklin Township. I like watching bears come out of their dens buried deep below the snow. It feels great seeing the birds and insects migrate back from the south to find or make new nests and lay their eggs. I love watching the trees bloom with hundreds of different flowers. My favorite is seeing flowers start to bloom with buds looking gracefully up at the sun.

One of the things I love about nature in spring is how all the animals seem to wake up or come home. I miss watching all the birds migrate south. It feels so good watching all the animals come out of hibernation. The bears come out of their dens buried deep in the snow. And all the birds come back from the south to find or build new nests and lay their eggs. I also love watching all the bugs and insects come back. I like to watch the butterflies and caterpillars crawl around. That is one reason why I love spring in Franklin Township.

Another reason I feel connected to nature in the spring is that I get to go to the pool and play outside. I love to go to my grandmother's pool in the spring and go swimming. I feel like a fish or a mermaid in the ocean when I put on my mermaid tail and swim in the pool. I like to dive into the deep end and touch the bottom. It's like going into a different dimension. I also love to play with my cousins in the grass and the woods. It is great to build a fort out of wood. And play in the warm mud. That is another reason I love to play outside in the spring.

The last reason I feel close to nature in the spring is I love all the smells and sights. I love to smell all the flowers and the leaves on the wind. And watching the birds and butterflies fly overhead. I like to run my fingers in the streams and rivers and play in the ponds. I like to feel the bark of logs and trees against my hands. And watch all the worms and bugs crawl in the dirt. I like to look at all the flowers and their colors. That is why I feel closest to nature in the spring.

I feel so close to nature in the spring, don't you? I love all the creatures, how they seem to wake up and return, and how we get to go into our pools and play in the woods with friends. I like waiting for the birds to fly and the hummingbirds hopping from flower to flower. I love all those things in the spring. I like its beauty, love, and adventure. So next time someone asks what you love about spring, tell them what you know, which I bet is a lot.