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## Oil Spill

A Brown Pelican family  
gliding languidly in the pacific,  
swishing webbed feet,  
fluffing under-feathers,  
fishing for Manhadens and Anchovies.  
The yellowish wash on their crowns,  
sparkling in the afternoon sunlight.

A few metres away  
a tanker collision causes an oil spill.  
Crude oil spreads like evil's palm  
on once azure waters,  
engulfs ocean waters in slick black oil.  
Twinkling reflections of daylight  
crumble to black scars,  
under dark gashes of petroleum.

The chicks shake their tiny heads  
to rid themselves of oil  
They flap their wings  
trying to rid themselves  
of the heavy drape of slime  
The black, stifling liquid  
matts their tiny feathers  
makes it impossible for them to stay afloat.

Note to poem:

Between 1990 and 1999, an average of 150,000 tons of oil spilled each year into the world's waterways [source: National Academies]. 2001 was a particularly bad year, with five spills occurring within the same week [source: Marine Group].