

The Barrier Island

A beautiful day. Light breeze. Low swells roll up.
Light white tops. Beached waves creep up. Depositing life.
Salty water slipping back. Little shellfish burrowing in the wet sand.
Sand crabs scurrying to their holes. Gulf water is quite warm.

Gulls fishing. Schools of bait running the cuts. Pelicans diving.
Kids sand castling. Saucers and balls flying.
Adults on towels. Sleeping, reading, dreaming.
Sun starts down. Time to go. Breeze is picking up. Could be a blow.

Back to the beach house standing tall in the middle of the island.
Gulf on the South. Big Bay on the North.
Everyone follows the path. Straight to the concrete stilts.
Bottom level for storage. Up the stairs. The big living room.

Bunkrooms on the corners. Kitchen on the north wall.
Viewing windows on the South. Large wraparound porch.
Parts of porch are screened. 'Derned' mosquitoes.
Might blow. Put up the storm windows. Get ready to hunker down.

Bed by 10. Blowing harder. Electricity fails at 11.
Look out South. Surf is approaching the house.
Everybody awake. Midnight. Water creeping up stilts. Flooding stairs. Open attic
ladder. Kids up first. Take a flashlight.

The water reaches the big room. Crashing waves hit the South wall.
Everybody up. Attic too small. Wind and waves a constant roar.
Suddenly, eerie quiet. Wind and waves subside. Clouds disperse.
Lightning storms surround. 2, 3, 5, 10 minutes. Is it safe?

Part 3 - Poetry and Thoughts

Then it hits. Big Bay is filled with water. Blown in from the South.
The eye passes. North wind now pushing bay water back to the Gulf.
The wall of water crashes into the North side. Overtops the roof.
House disintegrates. Washes out over the beach. A demolished raft.

Storm passes. The house is gone. No survivors. Drowned bodies were found.
Barrier island is clean once more.

The Gulf waters are a bit cooler.

Stilts remain.

Pelicans diving.

Gulls scavenging.

Dunes rebuilding.

Storm soon forgotten.

New beach dreamers arrive.

Plant taller stilts!