



*The Case of the
Mysterious Boiling River*

When Andrés Ruzo was a young boy in Peru
His grandfather told him a story that gave him a quest to do

Did you know in the Amazon there's a secret boiling river?
Now let me tell you a tale that will make you quiver.

The river was part of a legendary tale
Of when the Spaniards who conquered Peru set off on a gold hunting trail
They returned with stories of poisoned arrows and trees that blotted the sun
Spiders that ate birds, snakes that swallowed men, and other tales that stun

What haunted Andrés was a dream of a river thrashing with heat
Would Andrés and this river ever meet?

When Andrés grew up and got his PhD
He asked experts in the field about what they see

The experts said without a volcano, no river could boil
But Andrés wanted to discover for himself if he could find this river that roiled

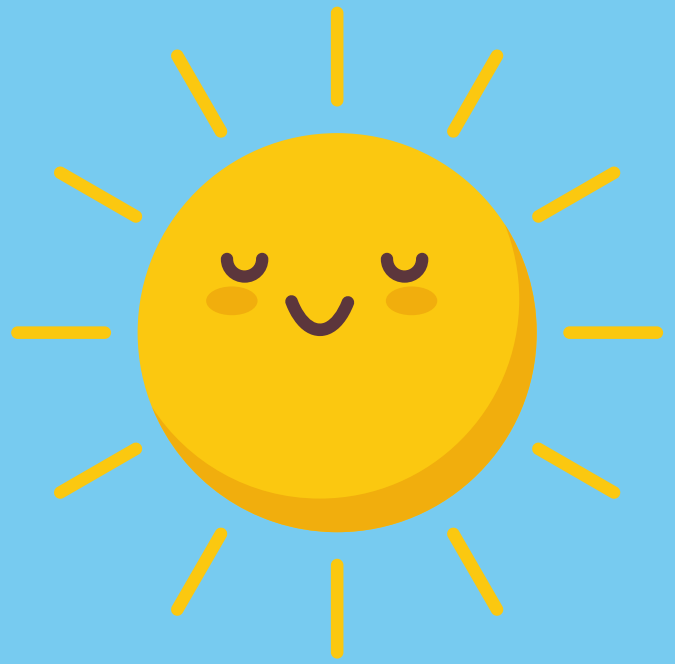
As he shared his dream at a family dinner
His aunt told him she had swum in this very river

As he hiked into the jungle, he heard a low surge and felt a quiver
And there it was: a boiling river!

He grabbed a thermometer and plunged it into the heat
I could boil an egg here! he thought. Now isn't that neat.

He asked for soup and was handed a cup
No need to boil water. Just dip and sup.

How this river was created was a mystery
Until he researched and found what would change history



He found the river was powered by the Earth's heat
That organisms lived in it that couldn't be beat

They are called extremophiles as they can survive extreme conditions
They show us what it's like to survive without our usual provisions

So by being curious about microbes and boiling rivers
We better learn how to survive
Because that is how Nature thrives

