



6-15-1999

## Slippers

Diane Gage

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### Recommended Citation

Gage, Diane (1999) "Slippers," *Westview*: Vol. 18 : Iss. 2 , Article 18.  
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol18/iss2/18>

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# Slippers

by Diane Gage

Useless solo, they mate as geese do,  
or wolves, as they say: for life.  
Yawning welcome to commence shuffling  
they fluff up toes, soles and heels  
with little pillows of warm air,  
pat and soften the way  
from sleep to work and back.  
More independent than socks  
less serious than shoes  
they tread the short interior paths  
over and over  
nursing the sick  
gathering with the family  
on holiday mornings  
dashing out for newspaper or milk.  
At night they dream of opera premieres  
and glacier climbing expeditions  
or they prowl forests as giant cats  
until they wake to their job:  
whispering hearth-news  
to extremities.

