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## Tenderfoot

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*Tenderfoot*  
**M. Allen-Young**

Sister's foot hangs  
from the top bunk flung  
in thrashing sleep.  
She doesn't snore,  
but she talks sometimes.  
I listen from below.

Mother takes sister's foot,  
pushes it over the wooden rail.  
Stops and tells me  
to take it in my hand.  
Sandpaper rough,  
dusty from the gravel driveway.

Sister's feet are flip-flop striped.  
Shoes lost like years spent barefoot on  
grass  
gravel  
cement.

I wear shoes  
now, breaking them in like wild horses.  
At home I leave them by the door.