

MARY ALICE DIXON

Sensible Shoes

her shoes
suggest taking a stroll

her toes
in the same house

understood
the grass

ABOUT THE POEM

“Sensible Shoes” was created from *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf (1927). About the poem and the process of composing it, Mary Alice Dixon writes:

All the words in this piece come from a single page, a page that sang to me of Virginia Woolf’s bohemian nature. In the center of the page an italicized phrase jumps out from the text: “*Someone had blundered.*” This visual leap prompted me to focus on feet. I could see Woolf walking barefoot in public despite the code of dress—and behavior—prescribed for women. I see the shoes as straitlaced, the toes as painted ladies.

