



## Reuters photo: Haditha, Iraq

Laura Williamson

Small feet trust the tracks of big ones,  
not knowing some foot falls are horror,  
not knowing to take steps to evade  
them, steps just learned besides.  
Instead, one foot tucks protectively  
over the other, a pair to the end.

If I could peek over the curvature  
of the earth, would I? But I might see this:  
A little boy in his pyjamas with a train in his lap.  
He only wanted to park it at the station before he died.  
Rather I stay here where it's summer, still,  
not winter, and no one will notice our  
children getting ready for bed.

Small thoughts on this Southland beach.  
If I were her, I'd post his tiny shoes to them,  
air mail, with a note. He wore these  
to the tide line and then he took them off  
to see what shape his soles might make.  
He saw his mark and said it's mine.

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Laura Williamson is a Canadian writer and teacher based in Lake Wanaka, New Zealand. She spends much of her time exploring the local hills by bicycle and looking up obscure rock music trivia on the internet. This is her first time in print in Australia.

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