

June 2007

Familiar ii and iii

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Recommended Citation

Ayes, O. (2007) "Familiar ii and iii," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 7: Iss. 1, Article 31.
Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol7/iss1/31>

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Ayes: Familiar ii and iii

FAMILIAR II AND III

O. Ayes

*"In fondness molest a curly worm
Whose familiar is everywhere."*

-Anne Spencer

ii.

i didn't know parasitic
worms existed though
i was warned not to play in mud
puddles

 i splashed anyway
 made waves
on my way to *lola's* house
 letting my foam slippers
float in brown water

then once at school i saw
a girl bent over the sink
 her pleated skirt bunched
between her legs puking
 a long white string

they said it got in through her toe
and it grew
 and grew

iii.

sometimes when it rained
we ran to the beach
just as the water
warmed up and just before
the current sneaked sand
into our underwear

it was a day like this when a small boat sank
on the way to boracay island
i didn't know the kids
two of them a year apart
when their caskets were carried
through the school yard

their father managed the local bank
went crazy after he found
footprints of white sand in his office
said his wife knew