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## Taxonomy of the Border II

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## **Taxonomy of the Border II**

by Erin Murphy

They took the shoes from the children,  
gnawed off gummy soles with knives  
like whittlers on the porch of a shotgun  
house. They slipped laces from the throats  
of sneakers and boots, then handed back husks  
of canvas and rubber as if to say *Only we have  
the power, the power to make a noose.*