

# The Oval

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## October

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KRISTI GILLEON

# OCTOBER



october was the time for lonely walks in yellow light,  
dusty galoshes, and other traditions of country living.

strange feeling to be so single and wooden  
inside myself  
and to sense the chilled openness  
of the coming winter.

piles of I.I. bean catalogues  
lazed on the stairs of my father's studio  
like neglected dogs –  
clothing for the rosy-cheeked sort  
and fine young men of accidental fashion.

something about those flannel shirts my father wore  
made autumn a right of manhood,  
but I loved the tricks of the season  
right along with him.

he was there in those leaves  
the colors of flannel –  
falling so proudly and in such fine style.