

## **Step-by-step**

For my mother, eight years an amputee

### *Subtraction*

Prune: what the surgeon  
did to your right leg. Oh that  
you had been a tree.

### *Addition*

Prosthesis: a Greek  
word bearing the gift of hoped-  
for mobility.

### *Multiplication*

Above knee or below,  
an amputee can't be  
a goodie two shoes.

### *Division*

One leg and a third  
equals half of any  
fashion footwear pair.

### *Ideology*

Two legs good, four legs  
bad; or the reverse. What then  
of one and one third?

### *Logistics*

Transfer: to move from  
wheelchair to anywhere safe  
for your derrière.

### *Flight of Fancy*

Wheelchair: mode of transport  
by day. At night— palanquin  
of dreams, nightmares' chariot.