

Mushrooms

Overnight, very  
Whitely, discreetly,  
Very quietly

Our toes, our noses  
Take hold on the loam,  
Acquire the air.

Nobody sees us,  
Stops us, betrays us;  
The small grains make room.

Soft fists insist on  
Heaving the needles,  
The leafy bedding,

Even the paving.  
Our hammers, our rams,  
Earless and eyeless,

Perfectly voiceless,  
Widen the crannies,  
Shoulder through holes. We

Diet on water,  
On crumbs of shadow,  
Bland-mannered, asking

Little or nothing.  
So many of us!  
So many of us!

We are shelves, we are  
Tables, we are meek,  
We are edible,

Nudgers and shovers  
In spite of ourselves.  
Our kind multiplies:

We shall by morning  
Inherit the earth.  
Our foot's in the door.

Sylvia Plath

Each line  
is 5  
syllables  
long.

This is an example of a  
"Syllabic poem" - the number of  
Syllables in each line is constant

Parallelism (word order)

Use of pronoun "our" suggests  
the narrator is a mushroom  
[personification - non human  
thing (mushroom) takes  
human action (narrates  
a poem)]

- Music

More  
assonance

More  
parallelism  
(order)

Parallel word order

Parallel word construction

Assonance →  
"ee" in  
all three lines

We seem weak  
vs  
but the world  
will be ours

Tension  
between

↓  
what is expected  
and of the typically  
weak

vs.  
what will actually  
happen