

## Recess

Three times a day the meshed-glass, push-bar doors  
Sneeze forth a flurry of pepper tickled freckle faces.

A whirlwind of miniature mittens and boots,  
A mass of varicolored marbles cast on pitted asphalt  
Running, bouncing, hopping in anxious clusters  
To swings, jungle gyms, merry-go-rounds, teeter-totter.

In a long black overcoat, black shoes  
Comes the loose ankled overseer  
To the surveyor's perch,  
The bloated wadding trailing the shot.

A clutch of eager gosslings  
Pulls at the tails of the great coat,  
But the eagle eyes ignore the undertow squeals  
In the yard-wide rhythmic assembly of chaos,  
Sandpapered with sound.

1980