

The Snowball

1.

It hits the windscreen
Like a full stop and I think—
Feeling the better
For it—"Somebody out there
Wants to give me a white eye."

2.

And am reminded
Of the first years at the wall,
Myself among them,
The broth of bullyboys' breath
In that supervised snowfight

3.

In January
1952, no place
To go but the wall,
The face at the president's
Window the president's face.

4.

And reminded too
Of your head-on collision
With the plate glass door,
Your full stop of red lipstick,
Ah my dear, lipsticked mid-air.

H E A N E Y

5.

Nothing, all the same,
Like being up against it,
Nothing like being
Faced with what you have to face
To make a woman of you.

6.

You say contrary,
I say contrary, you say
Contrarier, I
Say contrarier, contrar-
ier and -trarier still.