

## **The upstairs food court**

Rubber tire rolls  
bain-marie aisles  
grips heavy toddler  
centrifugally snug  
three kids run beside  
reaching pushing  
scream delight  
across fluorescent tiles  
tread bounces  
down metal staircase  
arm waves round'n'round  
momentum carries  
curry fur bear  
a half loop  
to ground  
lady upstairs cries  
drops at silver screen  
where tall figures  
wade ocean  
with giant yellow sucking straws  
one turns to audience  
wide mouth whispers  
“There's something here.”

## **The Machingeon**

Each Čapek stretch

this cast-iron dog  
clockwork scratches  
ear licks  
crotch stains  
for oil

I wish I was

cymbal rivet copper  
sax ophone key  
snare shell beat  
an' didge' bop

hummed measure

in cobbled town-  
square overlooked  
by gristle woman  
who waves exclamation  
marks  
    from balcony  
    throws  
    a

pot flowered sun  
that fills the sky

with whole mellow notes.

## **O brother: a one act play**

“—I have no arm-rests.”

*From grey desk-top onto short floor bristle  
Other slides leather-boots.*

“—what does this here lee-ver do?”

*Leans lank into upright  
Nameless cocks peaked cap.*

“—I pull it push it—nothing.”

*Mystery stands tall, scratches nape  
treads shock squared distance.*

“—this second lee-ver—it changes nothing”

*Unknown stops close  
at synthetic blank terminal.*

“—these wheels—they don't wheel.”

*Between lower-lumbar and cube-wall crevasse  
Enigma quietly peers.*

“—it doesn't swivel.”

*Cryptic thumbs jaw cleft  
stubbled brim shadow says*

*“What ya huv'  
down there  
wedged tight  
is ya brother  
he's all wet—”*

*chin tilts up  
“—an' he's dead.”*

## **In the park**

Lying,  
eye gritted, metal turned earth  
lash flicked, smashed black blade's grass;  
already decayed.  
That fought and screamed soil's moist thrall  
at deep dark packed clay.

Lying,  
nose snorted, alloy scraped earth  
nostril smelled, stemmed black torn roots;  
already decayed.  
That pointed and grasped under obscured wall,  
at grand visions of delay.

Lying,  
lip pressed, gravel driven earth  
tongue tasted, cut black curled worms;  
already decayed.  
That jerked and caressed each shallow well  
into dirt mound by day.

Lying,  
mattock's drive, steel raked earth  
bodies length, black, lie motionless;  
already decayed.  
That cut and accrue exposed shovel's will  
in tower bells ringing display.