School Seasons

One

It is optimism, energy
Reunion and the crisp smell
Of thick laundered cotton
Straw hats
The hubbub of corridors
The colour of classrooms
Sovereignty of teacher-ma'am or sir
Lessons are sharpened by the hunger of attentiveness
Routines
Are stridently set
Piously, positively, met.

Two

We are ready for the next thing, thanks...
Yet
Seven weeks are still to go!
Good grief. :(
We climb from weekend to weekend
Stepping through study from test to test
A hypnotic cycle
(Broken by moments of novelty)
Of mainly work and rest
Work and rest, work and rest...

Three

Holidays are like a mirage
But the good news is they're real!
So here we are
Staggered-towards
Enobled by longing
And when met
Just
Bliss:
Golden, This.
Those unbitten by boredom
Lose themselves in play;
Each is an adventure of a day.

Four to Eleven

Rinse and repeat the above seasons, student:
One, two, three
One, two, three
One, two –
Where did the time go?
Eep!
The year's all but complete.

Thirteen

Exams
A sacred spell
Descends to mark the season
And stays
And hovers
Its atmosphere suffusive
Textbooks propped beneath cereal bowls
Notes pinned to toilet walls
Disciplined sleep on eves of assessment
The way your brain's treated borders abusive
But the regime is fair, you admit
It is optimised and honed
For outcomes
For performance
For one fortnight, self-awareness melts off
And all is done in the name of
Exams.
Of exams.

Fourteen

Explosive exuberance!
Sunshine ricocheting off each slimy surface in your head
The world is good
The world is great!
You're on summer holidays
Three damn months!
That's a heavenly fate
To strip off the stockings
And dress as you please
And hang with your mates
And just shoot the breeze
And go here and there

With parents or not
Your spirits rise as the mercury shoots from warm to hot
The world is your oyster
The days are so long
There's so much to do
But nothing needs to be done
Sure, you love work
You cherish each part of the school cycle
But gee, nothing feels
Like holiday time...
Tis the season!
An open road of fun.