AN OLD SCHOOL BELL RINGS FOR TWO SECONDS CHILDREN'S VOICES BOOTS SHUFFLING CARS SLOWLY GLIDE BY THE HIGH HISS OF TYRES ON THE RAIN-WET ROAD SOME SPARROWS CHIRP VERY CLOSE BY SEVERAL PAIRS OF SHOE SOLES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT YOUTHS TALKING LAUGHING AMONG THEM BOYS WHOSE VOICES ARE BREAKING A SURGING CONTINUUM OF APPROACHING AND SLOWLY PASSING CAR ENGINES THE CRASHING RATTLE OF A BICYCLE BASKET MOVES SWIFTLY FROM RIGHT TO LEFT DISAPPEARS MORE REMOTE ENGINES IN THE MIDDLE DISTANCE A TRIUMPHANT CHILD'S VOICE DELICATE TICKING IN THE VIBRATIONS OF A DIESEL ENGINE THE GENTLEST PRIMER OF RAINDROPS FALLING FROM TREES THE POWERFUL THROTTLE OF A SLOWLY PASSING BUS TAKES UP THE FOREGROUND AND FOR A MOMENT ALMOST DROWNS OUT THE MORE DISTANT CHILDREN'S VOICES A VELVETY MOTOR IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER CAR MUFFLED CLATTER OF CRATES BEING STACKED A SLIDING DOOR SLAMMED SHUT THE REPEATED HIGHT PITCHED CRIES OF A CHILD SQUEAKY RUBBER SOLES HASTILY REMOVE THEMSELVES SOFT OSCILLATING CAR ENGINES WITH LOUDER STRESSES WHEN THEY DRIVE THROUGH PUDDLES AND OVER BUMPS THE DARK SOUND OF HEELS FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET THE SLOWING RHYTHM OF A DIESEL ENGINE IS EVENTUALLY SWITCHED OFF AND RELEASES THE NOISE OF FOOTSTEPS ALREADY NEAR AGAIN THE SLAMMED SLIDING DOOR TWICE IN QUICK SUCCESSION WITH MIGHTY DIESEL CLATTERS AND A CRYING SONG A TRUCK PASSES BY SHOE SOLES RUBBING AGAINST THE GROUND HEELS CLICK IRREGULARLY ON THE STONE CHILDREN'S CALLS WITH CAR TYRES PLUS AN ENSEMBLE OF NOW CONVERGING FOOTSTEPS AND THE RICKETY CRACKLING CONTINUUM OF A PRAM ON THE PAVEMENT THE HIGH SCREECH OF GRATING METAL PARTS RUBBING TOGETHER A DEEPLY THUMPING SPORTS CAR TURNS IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING AND STILL FROM A DISTANCE IS LONG ABLE TO PRIME EVERYTHING A SHOPPING TROLLEY IS QUIETLY RATTLED BY FOOTSTEPS AND EMBEDDED IN THE NOISES OF CAR TYRES A MAN'S VOICE WHOSE CONSONANTS AND CLEAR VOCAL COMPONENTS ARE CONCEALED THE THIN HIGH SINGING OF A FAN BELT HALF-HIDDEN CHILDREN'S CONVERSATIONS IN SEVERAL SMALL GROUPS A WOMAN WHO UTTERS A SERIES OF SPORADIC LANGUAGE CHUNKS A CIGARETTE LIGHTER IS FLIPPED OPEN A DIESEL ENGINE MOMENTARILY COVERS THE CHILDREN'S VOICES COMPLETELY SOMEONE BLOWS THEIR NOSE A DRAMATIC YOWLING BICYCLE BRAKE SOFT AND CAUTIOUS FOOTSTEPS NEARBY AN UMBRELLA IS FOLDED UP CHILDREN'S CRIES FROM THE MORE DISTANT BACKGROUND

WHICH ARE ONLY AUDIBLE THROUGH A SOMEWHAT LONGER PAUSE IN THE TRAFFIC FOOTSTEPS WHICH ONLY IN RHYTHMICAL TEXTURE BUT NOT IN THEIR CLEAR TONE COLOUR ARE DISTINCT FROM THE SOUND OF CAR TYRES ON THE RAIN-WET STREET THE RHYTHM OF AN IDLING DIESEL ENGINE AND THE ALMOST MATCHING OSCILLATING FREQUENCY OF BICYCLE GEARS THE DIESEL ENGINE OPENS THE THROTTLE COLLECTING THE FOREGROUND FOR ITSELF THEN THE GENTLE THIN SINGSONG OF THE BRAKES THEN AGAIN THE THROTTLE THE 'NEENAW-NEENAW' OF A DISTANT SIREN SLOWLY PASSING CAR NOISES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT THE WET-RHYTHMIC SOUND OF A PAIR OF SHOE SOLES A TRUCK'S IGNITION CHILDREN'S VOICES ARE PASSING BY THE SMALL WHEELS OF A TROLLEY ON GRITTY DAMP GROUND THE POWERFUL CRESCENDO AND DECRESCENDO OF HARD HEELS MARCHING BY SMALL VAN FOLLOWED BY A BELLING MOPED DISTANT CHILDREN'S CONVERSATIONS AND THE PLACING OF CRATES ON THE TRUCK RAMP CLOSE CHILDREN'S VOICES WHOSE CONSONANTS AND SPEECH SOUNDS BLEND WITH THE FOOTSTEPS ANOTHER CHILD FURTHER AWAY SINGS A FEW TONES SWATHED IN DEEP ENGINE AND HIGH ASPHALT NOISES A METAL TROLLEY IS PUSHED RUMBLING OVER THE COBBLESTONES RHYTHMIC FLAT-FOOTED STEPS FROM RIGHT TO LEFT THE DEEP RUMBLING OF THE LARGE TROLLEY NOW STEADY AND ON ASPHALT SOMEONE BLOWS THEIR NOSE IN TWO SHORT TRUMPET BLASTS DRAGGING FOOTSTEPS AND THE TROLLEY'S TINNY VIBRATIONS A FAR-OFF WHISTLE WITH IRREGULAR STRESSES A MOMENT OF STRETCHED-OUT SPATIALITY OF CLOSER AND MORE DISTANT FOOTSTEPS THE GROAN OF MASSIVE METAL PARTS RUBBING TOGETHER TWO CHILDREN IN BREATHLESS CONVERSATION THE TEDDYBEAR-LIKE GROWL OF A MOPED APPROACHING CAR ENGINE AND RECEDING TYRE NOISE ANOTHER ENGINE IS STARTED UP AND WITH UP AND DOWN SLIDING SINGING DRIVES PAST A MAN'S VOICE AND A CHILD'S VOICE ALTERNATE THE QUESTIONING 'HALLO' FROM A CHILD ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET FAST RUNNING FEET FROM THE LEFT TOGETHER WITH A PAPER BAG RUSTLING IN THE SAME RHYTHM AN APPROACHING DOG-LEASH BELL AND THE OWNER WHO SUDDENLY STANDS BEFORE ME AND SAYS A LONG SENTENCE TO ME WITH A CHEWED-UP ACCENT THE TICKING PAWS WHEN BOTH MOVE AWAY THE RASPING SOUND OF METAL PARTS LIFTED WITH DIFFICULTY ONTO THE TRUCK RAMP FROM ACROSS THE STREET A PLASTIC SHUTTER IS PULLED DOWN WITH A ROLLED 'R' SOUND AND STRAIGHT AWAY A SECOND IDENTICAL SOUNDING SHUTTER VERY CLOSE BY GENTLY BEATING FOOTSTEPS FROM THE LEFT

(Translation: David Bull)