

The Carriages

William Heyen

It's one thing to hear of 200,000 children murdered
at Auschwitz; another, as two witnesses testified,
that empty baby carriages were pushed in rows of five
to the railroad station, taking long & long to pass by.

No doubt some carriages were poor & plain,
others of the finest lacquered wicker & satin.
No matter. What matters within this vacuum
teethes the human scream we cannot fathom.

We will, will we, sooner or later, again, mother
no such vacancy, no such absence, but now
those children must remain behind
as carriages form lines of pure sound.