

THE PENALTY SHOOT-OUT

On steel wings, extra time has flown.
A brutal shoot-out will decide
whose cup will overflow with joy
or heartbreak if their dream has died.

The ball is placed upon the spot.
A terrible silence starts to reign.
The penalty taker, about to strike,
will release great roars of triumph or pain.

The goalie...will he be the hero?
From his line, alone and brave,
will he turn the odds around?
Read the striker's mind, and save?

For the striker there is all to gain.
More to lose if he should miss.
No mercy or solace for him *then*.
Small comfort in a pitying kiss.

Will football history now be made?
The referee's whistle, sharp and shrill,
propels the striker towards his goal.
The crowd awaits the final kill.

