

FIRST DAY

The jacket is just a little too big.

He'll grow into it, we said.

His head is covered by a hat
that overshadows his glowering face.

The shoes are shiny and new
waiting to be scuffed in the dirt.

The tie hangs untidily
outside his shirt.

He'll soon learn how to manage it,
you said.

A brand new empty schoolbag
sits at his feet.

Hurry up and take this photo mum
or I'll be late for school.

His first day
and my last one with him alone.

I'll watch the clock
and count the hours
till he's back home.