Social Studies. 1955

The interruptions in grade school when a B-36 went over:
the six prop engines
of the world's biggest bomber
grinding the air
meant a two minute break
in lessons. The new plane,
the B-52, left silent vapor trails,
white chalk on blue slate,
but the B-36 throbbed down
the recitations: arbitrary dates,
the names and principal exports
of little countries in hot climates.

BERT ALMON