**prompts from the north**

 (i)

 that blinkin thing –

 that touchin o the corners

 o the eye DON’T CRY

*tears didn’t fall if you looked up long enough* (michelle gallen)

 (ii)

 thon *ben sherman* shirt

 ah wouldni wear / that ah wore

 fur years when ah did

title of michelle's novel, *factory girls*

 (iii)

 dad’s *get up them stairs*

 *n trousers OFF!* – or worse still:

 the silent treatment

*and then the silent treatment* (maria mcmanus)

 (iv)

 summer hols −

 lying in bed listening

 to bin lids going

gearóid mac lochlainn, on youtube

 (v)

 a nigerian

 at home in dublin now

 reads heaney’s digging

inua ellams, in: rsl tribute to seamus heaney, 2018

In the spring of 2022, I attended an online 'Northern Roadshow' offered by the Irish Writers' Centre in Dublin. The first three of these haiku were written in response to prompts at those sessions. The final two soon followed. I am grateful to the IWC for the bursary I received; and to facilitator Fiona O'Rourke, the weekly guest writers & my fellow participants for what we shared.