How Fugues Work

How everything plays
with just twelve notes — the melody
may be played upside-down
or have something added to it —
in a trance of understanding
inversion and augmentation
I'm late for the market

An insect comes and tilts its wings to the sun
this way and that on the windshield
when I stop the car to listen
I watch its tiny feet tread on the glass
vibrations of the third fugue

Other forms of joy return to me —
the Stan Getz version of Ipanema

the sneer on a particular gargoyle

the punctuation of the Psalms,
the colon and the balanced sentences;
the spiritual lesson implied;
syntactically, if you start, then something
will reach out to complete you
perhaps recognise you