

A GAUNTLET

The infant is ignorant
of danger and challenge.

The child grows curious
with unabated questions.

Limits are pushed,
discoveries abound.

Then kidnapped imagination
is caught in the vice of rules.

The death of thought
looms as a plague.

Imposed expectations are accompanied
by blue-ribbon grades.

Creativity surrenders
to compliance.

Possibilities hibernate
in stagnation.

Then discovery seeks
a travel companion.

Renewed thoughts ease ignorance,
the grip falls loose.

Daylight spreads idea,
infectious knowledge grows.

As the mind opens
the infant escapes danger.