

FOR A YOUNG BOY WHO ASKS
ME WHY HE SHOULD STUDY

on a theme of Brecht

What will it take for us to see that spring
is really a messenger? That winter is aware
of much more than we give it credit for?
That nights are real because the stars are real?
It's nice to know the sky doesn't think less
of rain because the rain is sad. It's nice
to know that clouds are older than the heart.
Once I smoked, and someone called the cops
on me. I was a tiny boy. They told me it would
stunt my growth. The cops gave me a lecture.
What is peculiar to the heart is not
always peculiar to the mind. To see
a dove is not to see its bleak undoing—
there where the hunter finds its weaknesses ...
What should I learn? you ask, your knowledge far
from over. I say learn everything you can.