

## HERE'S WHAT THISTLES CAN DO

spread  
with a natural vengeance  
like a shantytown,  
like a fire  
whose blue flames  
burn through the summer light.  
In the slow bang  
of the green world  
they create  
inviolable space  
yet serve  
as a floret feeding  
niche  
for hoppers, bumblebees,  
a spiked perch  
for hunterflies.  
I've seen thistles  
bent by herbicide  
into treble clefs  
and ampersands and  
surmount that.  
Elsewhere,  
I've seen an old thistle  
sway under a finch.  
And the other day  
one forced me  
from my path,  
closer to you.