

# Luisa A. Igloria

## Syllogism

All books are things with pages.  
Some books are mysteries.

Therefore, the slide rule will not work  
after it has tumbled into the rabbit hole.

Therefore, only the gulls will know the mystery  
of the fish spine left to shimmer on the beach.

And all poems are things with hinges.  
And doors work nicely as telescopes.

Therefore the circus tent works better  
in moonlight than it does at noon.

Therefore the animals are shy and you  
won't ever know how facile they are with old

or dormant languages. Therefore a panda  
is a fallacy only if you mistake it

for anything else but a penguin.  
But even in such instances,

a fallacy may be forgiven. And all  
paths that diverge in the wood

this time of year are either yellow  
or not yellow, but none of them

is any less mysterious. Choose one  
and choose another. Choose all or nothing.

Or choose to dwell in the more precarious middle.  
Choose a condition preferably involving books

or maps or letters—Some kind of field  
into which you might endlessly fall.