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## 2020 AMS Math Poetry Contest

### Outlier

The slick pen glides across paper  
precisely scraping the ruler's edge  
marking a line beside many lonesome dots  
a line of best fit as snug as a sweater.  
The slope is a mere fraction, but the line it fabricated would stretch on,  
encompassing an infinite amount of graph paper.  
As the line traveled, it would pass by many data points  
and the wispy voices of the outliers would be heard on the wind  
calling to the line from worlds away, asking it to contort  
to come and gather the lonely dots, and hold them shaking in its tepid arms  
but the line never does.  
Instead, it continues on without a sideways glance  
forever the same slope  
forever the same straight line.

--- *Sabrina Little, Mackintosh Academy, Boulder*