

Derivative

by Gary Hardaway

Teaching poetry is inefficient.
It contributes nothing
to quarterly profits or GDP
(unless that skill of phrase
phrases a memorable meme).
Better to spend the time
training the young toward
productive use of applied mathematics
which, incentivized just enough,
balloons into the great pure profit
of marketed probabilities
protected by Prospectus
and the usual disclaimers.
It's not the money. The money's
just a way of keeping score.
After a point, it's just the power and the glory
of bringing, from thinnest air,
voluptuous growth rates into being.

