## SUSAN GEROFSKY

## Seven strands of alphabetical crows

All but crows do eat fine grind.
But crows do all eat fine grind.
Crows do grind, but all eat fine.
Crows do grind fine, but all eat.
Do grind, fine crows, but all eat!
Do grind fine, eat crows, but all
Grind fine, eat, do crows, but all
Grind fine, eat all, do, crows! But...
Fine, eat all grind, do, crows, but
Fine, eat all, but grind. Do crows?
Eat all but fine grind, do, crows!
Eat all but crows. Fine grind, do.
All but crows do eat fine grind.

## *Note about the poem's structure:*

This poem is an experiment with structuring a poem as a 7-strand braid using the technique shown in the instructional video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=f
3m2KFZQAlw>

The outside left thread and outside right thread is (alternately) passed over one strand and under two towards the middle. There is no indication of over and under with the words (so far), but to the right is a diagram of the seven words, represented by the letters A to G, and their permutations in the 14 left-side and right-side braiding moves that bring them back to the initial row. This braided form has some interesting repetition with difference -- invariance and variance, a deeply mathematical and poetic way of structuring things.

For my first try at writing a 7-strand braided poem, I used words that started with the letters A to G, just to make it easier to keep track of the pattern. I live in Vancouver, Canada, where as many as 6,000 crows fly a daily commute together from the east to

the west side of the city at dawn, and back again at dusk, flying right over our house. So crows are always very much part of the reality of living in East Van, and naturally found their way into this poem.

- (0) ABCDEFG
- (1) BCDAEFG
- (2) BCDGAEF
- (3) CDGBAEF
- (4) CDGFBAE
- (5) DGFCBAE
- (6) DGFECBA
- (7) GFEDCBA
- (8) GFEADCB
- (9) FEAGDCB
- (10) FEABGDC
- (11) EABFGDC
- (12) EABCFGD
- (13) ABCEFGD
- (14) ABCDEFG