

Life's Hidden Variables

In a quiet room where numbers weave their tales,
A young actuary, Julia, spent her days.
She quantified the risks of life and loss,
In spreadsheets filled with charts and arrays.

Yet something stirred within her curious mind:
Why did some lives defy predicted trends?
What unseen factors did her charts not find?
What human elements did data transcend?

She sought to find the variables untold,
Interviewing people from all walks of life.
She listened to their stories, new and old,
Their joys and sorrows, triumphs and strife.

An old man spoke of love that kept him young,
A dancer shared the freedom of her art.
A soldier told of comrades lost and found,
A mother bared the depths of her own heart.

She saw that happiness could lengthen days,
That purpose was a force upon the life.
Her charts now breathed with life's complexity,
No longer just a cold analysis.

Julia smiled, knowing she'd made a change,
Infusing life into the lifeless grids.

For in acknowledging them,
She honored all the things the data hid.

And so, she walked a path both new and old,
Aware that life span is more than what we see.
An actuary still, but so much more—
A guardian of life's complexity.

Jing Huang, FSA, MAAA