

Passing by train through the Tuscan Alps one autumn were three friends: a poet, a mathematician, and a philosopher. One spied out the window a deer raising her head to test the breeze, and called it to the attention of the others. The sight inspired each of them to begin composing a poem on the spot. After they written two lines, they compared their efforts. The friends' characters were similar enough that, amazingly, they had all written exactly the same first line. The second lines, however, diverged, illustrating the differences in their thought processes.

The poet had written:

*Whistle, ye winds, and bring winter's scent
To the Tuscan hills, where dwell the spotted hinds.*

The mathematician had written:

*Whistle, ye winds, and bring winter's scent
To the Tuscan hills, where dwell hinds, some of which are spotted.*

The philosopher had been even more careful, writing:

*Whistle, ye winds, and bring winter's scent
To the Tuscan hills, where dwells at least one hind who is spotted on at least one side.*