Pinocchio

By Rae Armantrout

Strand. String.
   In this dream,

the paths cross
   and cross again.

They are spelling
   a real boy

out of repetition.

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Each one
   is the one

real boy.

Each knows
   he must be

wrong
   about this, but

he can’t feel
   how.

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The fish
   and the fisherman,

the pilot,
   the princess,

the fireman and
   the ones on fire.