

A retelling of the beginning and end of Dr. Seuss's *On Beyond Zebra*

Said calculus student Meredith McGrath,  
My very young friend who is now learning math,  
“The A is for algebra and G for geometry.  
The P for precalculus and the T for trigonometry.  
The M is for math and the R for 'rithmetic  
I know *all* the several branches mathematic.  
Through to C is for calculus. I know all the math.  
Said calculus student Meredith McGrath.  
So now I know everything *anyone* knows.  
From beginning to end. From the start to the close.  
Because calculus is as far as mathematics goes.”

Then she almost fell flat on her face on the floor.  
When I picked up the chalk and drew one branch more!  
A branch she never had dreamed of before!  
And I said, “*You* can stop, if you want, with the C  
Because most people stop with the calculus  
But not me!  
In the places I go there are things that I see  
That I *never* could see if I stopped with the C.  
I'm telling you this 'cause you're one of my friends.  
*My* mathematics starts where your mathematics ends!”

*The math that I showed her!*  
We tried a new path  
With calculus student Meredith McGrath.  
A few brand-new branches of wonderful math!  
I led her around and I tried hard to show  
There are things beyond calculus that most people don't know  
I took her past calculus. As far as I could,  
And I think, perhaps, maybe I did her some good. . .

Because, finally, she said:  
“This is really great stuff!  
And I guess the old calculus  
ISN'T enough!”

NOW the math she uses is something to see!  
Most people *still* stop at the C. . .  
*But not SHE!*