

Journal of Humanistic Mathematics

Volume 7 | Issue 1

January 2017

Discriminant

Lauren K. Carlson
Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm>



Part of the [Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lauren K. Carlson, "Discriminant," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 7 Issue 1 (January 2017), pages 290-290. DOI: 10.5642/jhummath.201701.25. Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol7/iss1/25>

©2017 by the authors. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons License.

JHM is an open access bi-annual journal sponsored by the Claremont Center for the Mathematical Sciences and published by the Claremont Colleges Library | ISSN 2159-8118 | <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/>

The editorial staff of JHM works hard to make sure the scholarship disseminated in JHM is accurate and upholds professional ethical guidelines. However the views and opinions expressed in each published manuscript belong exclusively to the individual contributor(s). The publisher and the editors do not endorse or accept responsibility for them. See <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/policies.html> for more information.

Discriminant¹

Laren K. Carlson

laurenkarlson@gmail.com

Like other gifted girls in '99
I learned to proof, plot and calculate
so if ever I should need to find
derivatives, I'll do just great.

I learned the way to root a polynomial
and how to slope the straightest line.
The things I loved weren't valuable,
Home ec—a waste of time.

The standard quadratic equation:
 $aX^2 + bX + c$
should have been a real solution,
but always solved zero for me.

¹This poem was written in response to Susan McLean's poem "Home Economics" (*The Whetstone Misses the Knife*, Story Line Press, Pennsylvania, 2014).
Journal of Humanistic Mathematics