

# Journal of Humanistic Mathematics

---

Volume 7 | Issue 2

July 2017

---

## A Calculus

Sandra Lindow  
*UW-Stout*

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



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#), and the [Mathematics Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Sandra Lindow, "A Calculus," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 7 Issue 2 (July 2017), pages 416-416. DOI: 10.5642/jhummath.201702.25. Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol7/iss2/25>

©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.

# A Calculus

Sandra Lindow

`lindow@uwstout.edu`

---

*To Miriam, on her graduation from college.*

What is the circumference of change?  
Measure the finite difference between  
a blade of grass and a spring violet.  
What is the foundation of family?  
How many shovels does it take to turn a garden  
four feet by twelve feet in the time it takes a robin  
to fly from the cottonwood to the front porch?  
What is the volume of two souls when the wind is blowing?

Factor in the sound of soup simmering,  
the smell of bread baking, a map spread out.  
Define the differential of green beans and snap peas;  
Calculate the square root of a maple leaf  
divided by the time it takes to turn red and fall.  
What is the hypotenuse of the distance  
between a mother and her grown child  
when snow laps the front door with longing?

If a young woman were to drive from Minneapolis  
to California at sixty-five miles an hour  
would her mother miss her less or more?  
Multiply the infinite quantity of love times mileage.  
How many breaths does it take to let her go?  
Calculus they say is the study of change,<sup>1</sup>  
I never took it. If I had, maybe  
I'd be better prepared to deal with your leaving now.

---

<sup>1</sup>Latorre, Donald R.; Kenelly, John W.; Reed, Iris B.; Biggers, Sherry (2007). *Calculus Concepts: An Applied Approach to the Mathematics of Change*.  
*Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*