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Word Problems

Don Pfaff

University of Nevada, Reno

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me with an opportunity to reflect on my role as a teacher of mathematics. An added bonus is that I now have a larger group of colleagues to whom I can turn for assistance with my own writing. (Two of my Core colleagues in the English Department have reviewed various drafts of this paper.)

I have had to work harder than I have in years to provide the students with an enriching experience, but in the process I have been intellectually stimulated by taking on such a challenge.

REFERENCES

1. Gold, B., Keith, S. & Marion, B. (Co-editors), "Assessment Practices in Undergraduate Mathematics," MAA Notes Series #49, Mathematical Association of America, 1999.
2. *Random House Unabridged Dictionary* (2nd ed.), Random House Inc., 1993.
3. White, A., "From Newsletter #1," *Humanistic Mathematics Network Journal*, Issue #18, Nov. 1998.

APPENDIX: FALL SEMESTER TEXTS AND READINGS

REQUIRED TEXTS

My Antonia by Willa Cather
Gilgamesh translated by David Ferry
The Bible, New Revised Standard Version
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
Confessions (Books I-IX) by St. Augustine
Hunger of Memory by Richard Rodriguez
Antigone by Sophocles
Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed by Philip Hallie
The Bedford Handbook by Marilyn Hacker

REQUIRED READINGS

Selected Poems by Anne Bradstreet
On Liberty (Chapter 4) by John Stuart Mill
Mencius (Selections)
The Book of Lord Shang
"Letter from Birmingham City Jail" by Martin Luther King Jr.
"The Courage To Stand Alone" by Wei Jingshen

Word Problems

Don Pfaff

Math Department, University of Nevada, Reno

(may be sung to the tune of Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire")

Words in problems bother me,
I'd like to drown them in the sea.
My brain is numb, I feel so dumb
I can't tell x from z .
Numbers swim within my brain, those methods used seem so arcane
How can I remember d is equal to rt ?
Seems my work is never done,
Teach assigned another one,
This weirdo claims they're lots of fun,
How I wish I had a gun,
I'd have that joker on the run.
I can't solve word problems.
They're a pain to me
The answers I can't see.
If I have to to work one now,
My mood will fluctuate
From love to hate to hate to hate...