

Untitled

Marion D. Cohen
Arcadia University

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



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

Recommended Citation

Cohen, M. D. "Untitled," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 8 Issue 2 (July 2018), pages 307-307. DOI: 10.5642/jhumath.201802.37 . Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol8/iss2/37>

©2018 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/>

Untitled

Marion Deutsche Cohen

Mathwoman12@gmail.com

Today Devin catches me at it.

“Mommy, what’re you trying to do?”

“Oh,” I say, “well, these lines.

“I’m trying to fix these lines.”

And then I explain triangles.

And then I explain transitive.

“Sometimes it can’t be done,” I tell him, “and other times it can.

“I’m trying to figure out when it can.”

“I get it,” he says. “I get it, Mommy.”

And later he catches me at it again.

“THAT one WORKED, right?”

’Cause maybe, if that one worked, we can go play Parchesi.

Or cards. Or ice cream.

Or at least Mommy won’t

keep staring at those lines.

This poem is from Marion’s poetry book, *Crossing the Equal Sign*, about her passion for math. Most of the poems (including this one) in that book were written while she was working on a particularly intriguing problem in graph theory; the problem had been solved already but, as she wrote in another line from that book, “I’m a do-it-yourself-er”. Marion is the author of 27 books and chapbooks of poetry and prose. Her chapbook, *Truth and Beauty*, is about the interactions among students and teacher in her course, Mathematics in Literature.