

# Journal of Humanistic Mathematics

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Volume 13 | Issue 1

January 2023

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## Mathematics

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### Recommended Citation

Kim R. Jongerius, "Mathematics," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 13 Issue 1 (January 2023), pages 300-300. . Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol13/iss1/26>

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# Mathematics<sup>1</sup>

Kim Regnier Jongerius

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Midnight,  
I'm surrounded by textbooks,  
Struggling with definitions,  
Seeking answers unknown.  
Feeling darkness, as crumpled papers cover the floor,  
And my spirit begins to groan.

Mathematics!  
All my friends are at parties  
But I sit in this dim light  
Facing problems alone.  
Wondering how this new concept fits with everything else,  
Fearing that I'll never know.

Then a light strikes in my mind  
And triggers cascades of thinking.  
Look at this set, is that another example?  
Where's the theorem I'm seeking?

Mathematics!  
I must wait for an insight  
Try to think of connections  
That I haven't before.  
When the day breaks with no solution coming to me  
Then my courage sinks to the floor.

Burnt out mind—an endless night  
Of stale ideas swirling 'round me.  
With jealous heart, I hear my friends returning;  
Another day is dawning!

Mathematics!  
How I wish I could leave you!  
But the memory of victories  
Keeps me pressing along.  
Solve this problem and I will know what happiness is  
And a new joy will have begun!

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the song "Memories" from the musical *Cats*.