

Discriminant

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Discriminant¹

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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).
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