

Discriminant

Lauren K. Carlson

Grand Valley State University

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



Part of the [Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Carlson, L. K. "Discriminant," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 7 Issue 1 (January 2017), pages 290-290. DOI: 10.5642/jhummath.201701.25 . Available at: <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol7/iss1/25>

©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/>

Discriminant¹

Laren K. Carlson

laurenkcarlson@gmail.com

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).
Journal of Humanistic Mathematics Vol 7, No 1, January 2017