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Long

MAT 115

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Poetry and Mathemalchemy

I am an English Major with a creative writing track. I have experience authoring stories, long and short, poetry, scripts, and more. A little background about why I chose my major; I have tried many majors, but none ever grasped me like English. I always had a love for reading and writing as a young girl, it was a way and still is, to express myself that I never could physically. Now, with math, I am the opposite. It was never a subject that I fancied still to this day. That is why for this project I want to incorporate English into Mathemalchemy in a way that cannot only help me but others in better understanding the chaotic “greatness” that is Mathemalchemy.

It is very known things that include rhythm and rhyme like a song and an expression, help the mind remember a lot better. So, why not make math more flowy like a catchy song or like that poem you remember from middle school because something from it stuck with you all these years. I created two poems in two lessons from Mathemalchemy, Infinity and Symmetry. Both are lessons that took a liking to them and found it easier to create a poem explaining the information from both. The writing style I decided to go with is poetry, specifically, a Ballad which is another old and traditional form of poetry that typically tells a dramatic emotional tale/story. Another technique I will be using is personification, the attribution of a personal

nature of human characteristics to something nonhuman, or the representation of an abstract quality in human form.

For the *Infinity* poem, I wanted to focus on the story of Achilles and the Tortoise, where the Tortoise beats Achilles. When we first went over it in class, I found it quite funny and interesting, especially remembering how they were placed on the Mathemalchemy structure. While drafting the poem, I wanted to make light almost childlike of the race between the two, but also add a little bit of a backstory to them. Also, because it is a poem about infinity, I made to not write an ending. Technically the poem does have an “ending” but it will be more of a poem where the poem wraps around to the beginning.

For the *Symmetry* poem, I wanted to focus on the symmetry of life forms on Earth which was included in chapter 2: Geometry, day 13 lesson. It was so cool to look at all the animals and bugs, the life forms in general, that I don't usually scope out in my day-to-day life. There was instantly the idea of creating this world with nothing but those lifeforms and the beauty they take and the surroundings around them. Although I wanted to capture the beauty of symmetry, I had to make sure the focus was still on the math behind symmetry.

There were many ways I could have done this subject especially since I can include English which makes the subject of math so much more tolerable. I felt that poetry could detain the details of Mathemalchemy in a way that fits the assignment in a quicker way than a short story or a different style of poetry. By creating these two poems, I executed the idea of how English can make the studies of math easier and in a more fun way to remember.

Infinity

Sweat upon skin while the heart hammers in the chest
Adrenaline race through the veins, both starting at a slow pace
Set in motion feet flesh and webbed scratch against the crest
Shell seen great distance ahead, Achilles still at the base

One loop, two loops, three loops, four
Paradoxical the whole things seem
Endless existence as the two soars
Man contradicts the distance like Eratosthenes

The reptile's beam seems un logical and impossible
As it continues to go the beyond
Zeno of Elea plea, heavy breaths audible
Space and time unchanging through their trod

This is the story of Achilles and the Tortoise
That shares the history with purpose
Both fulfilling the quest while

Symmetry

Green jagged wings and orange curled antennas
Rounded bodies spotted with blues in the centers
So vibrant and live just like the outside world
Pattern leaves upon bark flower tips curled

They're just alike one side and the other
Like their beady eyes are looking in a mirror
All the possibilities are infinity
The math of it all lost in complexity

Everything's equal you and me
Are structure being the definition of symmetry
Its dreamlike aura is easy to simplify
The glistening waters begin to aerify

The Earth is all- embracing of objects mirror facing
Nothing in between the interfacing
The nature of the living being so symmetrical
It almost seems skeptical

This is called symmetry
Oh, how I remember it vividly

Love