

TITLES of poems that may give “spirit-of-math” insights to poets (and other non-maths):

Poems about mathematicians

“Dear Ivar” by Carol Dorf (pwm, Bridges 2013 Anthology)
“Mathematician” by Sherman K Stein (pwm)
“Misunderstanding” by JoAnne Growney (pwm)
“Number Man” by Carl Sandburg (pwm, sa)
“Striving All My Life” by Stephanie Strickland (pwm, sa)
“The Proof” by Theodore Deppe (sa)
“What Drove Me into Math” by Marion Deutsche Cohen (sa)
“With Reason: A Portrait” (about Sophia Kovalevsky) by JoAnne Growney (pwm, Bridges 2013 Anthology)

Poems concerning the nature of mathematics

“A Taste of Mathematics” (or “San Antonio. 1993”) by JoAnne Growney (pwm, sa)
“Calculus” by Sarah Glaz (pwm, sa)
“Figures of Thought” by Howard Nemerov (pwm, sa)
“Geometry” by Rita Dove (pwm, sa)
from “Treatise on Infinite Series” by Jakob Bernoulli (pwm, sa)
“Paradox” by Clarence R Wylie, Jr (sa)
“Sieve of Eratosthenes” by Robin Chapman (pwm)
“The Blindmen and the Elephant: A Hindoo Fable” by John Godfrey Saxe (pwm)
“To Divine Proportion” by Rafael Alberti, a sonnet (pwm,sa)

Poems featuring mathematical vocabulary and ideas

“Compromise” by Charles S Allen (pwm)
“Give Me an Epsilon and I Will Treat It Well” by Ray Bobo (pwm, sa)
“The Icosasphere” by Marianne Moore (pwm)
“Mandelbrot Set” by Jonathan Coulton (pwm, sa)
“Numbers” by JoAnne Growney (a syllable snowball) (pwm)
“Numerical Landscape” by Eveline Pye (pwm, Bridges 2013 Anthology)
“Small Powers of Eleven are Palindromes” by JoAnne Growney (pwm)
“Smart” by Shel Silverstein (pwm, sa)
“Talking Big” by John Bricuth (pwm)
“There Is Always a Third Point Between Every Two” by Michael Rosen (*Against Infinity*)
“Zito the Magician” by Miroslav Holub (pwm)

Poems structured by mathematics

“The Fish” by Marianne Moore, a patterned syllable-count poem (pwm)
“I Am Going to Like It Here” -- song lyrics by Hammerstein II, Rodgers -- a pantoum (*google* will find it online)
“Little Women” by JoAnne Growney, a 4 x 4 square poem (pwm)
“Metaphors” a square riddle-poem by Sylvia Plath (pwm)
“On the Sadness” by Carl Andre, a poem structured by the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic (sa)
“A Pantoum for the Power of Theorems” by Sarah Glaz (pwm, Bridges 2013 Anthology)
“Square Poem in Honor of Elizabeth I” by Henry Lok (sa)
“The Presbytery Has Lost None of Its Charm” an irrational sonnet by Jacques Bens (pwm)

Many of these math-related poems are available at <http://poetrywithmathematics.blogspot.com> -- noted above using (pwm) -- and in the anthology (ed. by Sarah Glaz and me) *Strange Attractors: Poems of Love and Mathematics* (A K Peters 2008) -- noted using (sa).
Additional sources of fine math-related verse include *The Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, *The Mathematical Intelligencer*, the anthology *Against Infinity* (Primary Press, 1979) and the *Bridges 2013 Poetry Anthology* (Tessellations Publishing, 2013).