

2010

Algebra Applied

Charnay Murphy

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/oval>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Murphy, Charnay (2010) "Algebra Applied," *The Oval*: Vol. 3 : Iss. 1 , Article 23.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/oval/vol3/iss1/23>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Oval by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

ALGEBRA APPLIED



I've proved myself a solver of problems,
an employer of high school algebra.
Presented problem: capsule minus shell,
equals orange candy beads.
Add mortar, reduce by pestle,
and yield blooming, vermilion flour.
Add inhale, divide by neurons...

What is your final value?

A non-violent abuser,
with a synthetic span of attention.

I suspect myself a bringer of problems,
an accident born of internet-bred, self read,
self-diagnostic specialists.
Dilemma: distinguished dealer – long white coat,
insured hands – condemns addicts,
failing to recognize his own work.

Disorder equals potential addiction.

You tell them that you want to jump.
They will reply,

“At least do a flip.”