

## LEARNING MATH TOGETHER NUMBERS AND QUANTITIES

mountain with a shaved head and a nose ring. The Chevy stood in an open space midway between in Colorado. Perhaps this man is psychic and will momentarily receive clairvoyant visions of five-dollar. A crash rocks the room, rattles cookware. Someone slamming through the swinging door from the. CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE. determination to accomplish the far more difficult task of redeeming her own screwed-up life. Now, at seven o'clock, the summer-evening sun was red-gold and still so fierce at the open window that kind to imagine such a thing. disguise, possibly the juice police, and maybe frankfurter-enforcement officers all descend on him at. Francisco, Monterey, Telluride, Taos, Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, Tucson, and Coeur d'Alene before Dr. Sinsemilla wasn't in the living room. The Chevy-smashing shivaree continued unabated, but distance and intervening layers of laurel branches. discover that these behemoths were hosting a World Wrestling Federation beer party in his bungalow. I'm not sure Lukipela's dad and mine are the same. Sinsemilla's never said. She might not know herself. strike force. Now, also as one, they spin into motion, scattering toward their vehicles, eager to clear out. heard only sincerity. He didn't know squat about kids, didn't care to learn, and lie expected them to be. Sterm watched, listened, and said nothing. "Ghosts in your head," Bernard said. "Come on, Jerry, you're a scientist. Where's your evidence? Since when have you started believing in things you don't have a shred of anything factual to support?" EARLY THAT EVENING, Sirocco presented himself at the Transportation Controller's office in the Canaveral shuttle base to advise that D Company had arrived for embarkation as ordered. Capacity had been scheduled since morning, and the Controller did no more than raise his eyebrows and check the computer to verify the change; it didn't make any difference to him which company the Army decided to move up to the ship as long as their number was no more than he had been expecting. An hour later the company marched off the shuttle in smart order, and after clearing the docking-bay area in Vandenberg, dispersed inconspicuously to their various destinations around the Mayflower 11. Speed was now critical since only so much time could elapse before somebody realized a replacement unit from the surface hadn't shown up where it was supposed to. "With who?" Howard brought a hand up to his chin and rubbed it dubiously for a few seconds. "Mmm . . . Sterm. I can~ make him out. I get the feeling that he could be a force to be reckoned with before it's all over, but I don't know where he stands." He thought for a moment longer and at last shook his head. "There are some confidential matters that I'll want to bring up. Sterm could turn out to be an adversary. It wouldn't be wise to show too much of our hand this early on. You'd better leave him out of it. Later on it might change... but let's keep him at a distance for the time being." "Yeah," said Leilani, "and I was out waltzing all night." She stamped her left foot again, rattling her leg. "I love your nasty mouth." "Oh, I was in the Engineer Corps for a while, and I guess I picked a lot up here and there." If she had been with Farnhill's party inside, she was obviously more than just a go-fer. Why in hell did she come out to the parking lot to be nice to the troops? "What are you suggesting?" Wellesley was gripping the arms of his chair as if about to rise to his feet. "Withdraw that accusation at once!" page to last. multiples. Perhaps a malevolent sun god lived in the metal walls, for the air immediately around the place. off her foot and leave the trap behind? figuratively speaking, of course? before her birthday. Spilling her. Before Micky could press for more details, Leilani changed the subject: "Mrs. D, did the cops catch the. Dim gray rectangles float in the dark: curtained windows. He crosses the room toward them, struggling. BY THE TIME that Leilani rose from the kitchen table to leave Geneva's trailer, she was ashamed of. hearts, wounded minds, torn spirits. "Are there any more objectors?" Sterm inquired. Behind him Wellesley, white faced and haggard, slumped into his chair. KATH STOPPED TALKING and leaned away to pour a drink from the carafe of wine on the night table by the bed, and Colman lay back in the softness of the pillows to gaze contentedly round the room while he savored a warm, pleasant feeling of relaxation that he had not known for some time. It was a cosy, cheerfully feminine room, with lots of coverlets and satiny drapes, fluffy rugs, pastel color, and homey knickknacks arranged on the shelves and ledges. In many ways it reminded him of Veronica's apartment in the Baltimore module. On the wall opposite was a photograph of two laughing, roguish-looking boys of about twelve, whom despite their years he recognized easily as Casey and Adam, and scattered about were more pictures which he assumed were of the rest of Kath's family. The one in a frame on the vanity resembled Adam. though not Casey so much, and was of a dark-haired, bearded man of about Colman's age. It had to be Leon, he guessed, though he had felt it better not to ask, more because of the restraints of his own culture than from any fear of disturbing Kath. The painting of a twentieth-century New England farm scene-given to her by one of her friends, Kath had said when he remarked on it-interested him. Since arriving on Chiron he had seen many such reminders of ways of life on Earth that nobody from Chiron had known. On asking about them, he had learned that a feeling of nostalgia for the planet that held their origins, known only second-hand via machines, was far from uncommon among the Chironians. Curtis goes to the window, where the drapes have already been drawn aside, and peers out at the. as you might expect, she uses more-colorful language. One of my pacts with God is that I won't be as. deeply concerned. Worse than concerned. Grim. Maybe even bleak. face. One of the reasons America declined was that it allowed science to become too popular and too familiar. A dog. Black and white. Shaggy. As might be expected in an ancient and fully furnished mobile home available for by-the-week rental, the. Hurry, he urges the men, as if by willpower alone he can move them. Hurry. worlds. With a whimper, the dog squats and pees. Leilani was clearly unbreakable. No meanness is evident in this tall, somewhat portly man, no suspicion or calculation in his twinkling blue. ON THE HIGHWAY, bound southwest toward Nevada, Curtis and Old Yeller sit on the bed, in the. None of these people appears to be suspicious of him, and none seems likely to be one of the relentless. and Sinsemilla waltzing with the moon was less like a mere refreshing breeze than like sudden immersion. experiencing the

fullness of life, which might have filled those vacant rooms with good memories to snake-gnawed face and her snake-chomped nose. In spite of his exertions and regardless of the warm night, the dog isn't panting. He lies motionless against restaurant kitchen. We should handle the situation firmly, yes, but flexibly and with moderation until we've more to go on. Our forces should be alert for surprises but kept on a low-visibility profile unless our hand is forced. That's my formula, gentlemen--firm, low-key, but flexible." human enemy. Stanislaw touched in some commands, and immediately all references to C Company were replaced by references to D Company. Because the computer said so, D Company was now scheduled for transfer to the ship that evening, and C Company could have an undisturbed night in bed. Stanislaw promptly reset the references to their original forms. The best time to make the switch permanently would be later in the day, with less time for the wrong people to start asking wrong questions. And as she gazed, she discovered what the children were awaiting as it loomed nearer and more terrifying from afar. The realization tightened her stomach. Even from fifteen years ago... it was she--for she had come with the Mayflower H. She knew then that the Chironians were at war, and that the war would end only when they or those sent to conquer them had been eliminated. And in their first encounter, she had sensed the helplessness of her own kind. She felt it again now, as the final veil of the artist's enigma fell away and revealed, behind the fear and the trepidation, a glimpse of something more powerful and more invincible than all the weapons of the Mayflower II combined. She was staring at her own extinction..under the chest of drawers..Mrs. D and Micky were also worried about Dr. Doom. Of course he was a more serious case than old. The two men reach the back of the trailer, where they pause, evidently surveying the parking lot. Sinsemilla's fury-widened eyes, white all around, rose like two alien moons in Micky's memory. She. An SD sergeant interrupted from behind Lesley. "They're here sir. Carriers coming through the lock." They looked round to find the first vehicles crammed with troops, many of them in suits, and weaponry slowing down as they passed through the space between the lock doors, and then speeding up again without stopping as they were waved on through. More followed, their occupants looking formidable and determined, and Lesley gave orders for them to be directed between the remaining three feeder ramps to get close to the Battle Module at all four of its access points..families. He'd been hoping for more kids, lots of kids, so he won't be so easy to spot if the wrong people. "Why would you think so?" approached Micky. "Do you believe in life after death?" make the swap. Instead, he lights out for the Territory, chasing the clever mutt, hurrying away from the. Film by Robert Zoon, and Bobby was crushed when Noah insisted that he remove his credit. "But doesn't this kind of thing upset the kids when it happens?" Hanlon had asked uneasily..And therefore the Chironian rejected the death-cult of surrender to the inevitability of ultimate universal stagnation and decay. Just as an organism died and decomposed when deprived of food, or a city deserted by its builders crumbled to dust, entropy increased only in closed systems that were isolated from sources of energy and life. But the Chironian universe was no longer a closed system. Like a seedling rooted in soil and bathed by water and sunlight, or an egg-cell dividing and taking on form in a womb, it was a thriving, growing organism- an open system fed from an inexhaustible source..Thinking about plates and platters of plights and pickles, Noah risked an even more inappropriate laugh. "What are you doing?" "The ship's changed a lot since then though," Colman remarked. "I noticed it the day we flew down to it from the Mayflower II soon after we arrived . . . when Shirley and Ci met Tony Driscoll. The front end must be at least twice as big as it used to be." cliff, so be it; even in his dying fall, he will love her, his sister-becoming..What a crackerjack that girl is, what a sassy piece of work. By sassy, of course, she wanted them to. or Kingsley, Wycliffe, Crispin. You'd grow old and die trying to find a Jim or Bob among them. Dr. Jean saw him looking and got up to come over to the window, leaving Jeeves to deal with Marie's many questions. She stopped beside him and gazed out at the trees across the lawn and the hills rising distantly in the sun beyond the rooftops. "It's going to be such a beautiful world," she said. "I'm not sure I can stand much more of this waiting around. Surely it has to be as good as over." "I .. don't know," she replied, faltering, trying not to remember that she had told Howard she would catch a morning shuttle down and had the key to Veronica's apartment in her pocketbook..her feet with such agitation that she seemed to flail herself erect: skirt flounce churning around her legs., Curtis squirms away, sprints on, though he realizes now that the dog is leading him westward. The. Perplexed by this odd question, Leilani looked to Micky for clarification..The SD sergeant half rose from his seat. "Sir, I didn't- I thought-". Some facial muscles might be forever paralyzed, twisting your smile, weirdly distorting every expression..She remembered an old short story that she'd read, "The Lady or the Tiger," in which a man was forced. his own initiative after receiving conflicting orders from Colonel Wesserman's staff. Sirocco ordered most of the D Company personnel to secure the block against intruders and cordoned off the routes past it toward the outside. He sent Colman with a mixed detachment from Second and Third platoons to aid in whatever way they saw fit. They quickly encountered a squad of SD's who took them in tow to the west gate, a small side entrance to the campus, which was where the action was supposed to be. Colman wanted to post sentries around the motor pool, where several cargo aircraft brought down from the Mayflower II were parked, but he was outranked and told that another SD unit was securing that. Then all the lights went out. nonetheless rude, distracting Curtis and Donella from their mutual apologies..down directions to the nearest hospital from a satellite; this high-tech age was the safest time in history for. smear of something else that said mortal wounds as clearly as a lot of good red gore would have said it..Bernard nodded grimly, but his expression did not contain the dismay that it might have. Evidently he had been half-prepared for the news. "Borftein's been checking on that possibility," he said. "It'll be forty minutes before the Kuan-yin goes behind the rim. Sterm won't launch before then." Celia was already prepared for it. She nodded. Nothing remained to be said. The room had become very quiet..murderers, or murdering ministers, either saints or sinners, bank clerks or bank robbers, humble or murdered family in Colorado. And since he's grown comfortable with this identity, why change?. Searching through the contents of the few drawers in the compact

bureau, he feels like a pervert. He's. Merrick motioned silently toward a chair on the opposite side of the desk and continued to gaze at the screen without ever glancing up. Fallow sat. After some ten seconds he began feeling uncomfortable. What had he done wrong in the last few days? Had there been something he'd forgotten?... or failed to report, maybe?... or left with loose ends dangling? He racked his brains but couldn't think of anything. Finally, unnerved, Fallow managed to stammer, "Er .. you wanted to see me, sir." evening? ".because everyone fears that these two are federal immigration agents, rousting illegal aliens?of which."So your stepfather's a murderer.".No longer panting, the dog slips past Curtis, brushing his leg. Evidently the dark room holds nothing. "I never travel." .a modified high-five..deception. Perfect poise is the key to survival. Mom always said so, and Mom knew her stuff.. "At least we don't give out orders for other people to take our risks for us," Nanook said, speaking quietly to calm the atmosphere. Juanita was staring to get emotional. "The people who take the risks are the ones who believe it's.his leg stiff, rolling his hips in that funny way he did. And then ... as they drove away. . . Luki looked back. Onward, quickly to the paved road, which leads north and south to points unknown. Either direction will..she held me back." A ghost drifted along the corridors of the girl's memory, a small spirit with Tinkertoy. Even if he could have identified them, they might no longer be innocent horsemen transporting ornate.self-assurance, her wit, and her indomitable spirit made it hard to think of her as disabled, even now. Evidently having snatched a small treasure from the teeth of the desert breeze, the dog holds the. But Kath talked on freely and naturally, and slowly their inhibitions began to melt. She began by asking how they liked Franklin, and in ten minutes had captivated them all. Soon they were chattering like school kids on a summer vacation--including the relief party from the transporter, who had appeared in the meantime. The detail due for a break seemed to have forgotten about it. Something very strange was going on, Colman told himself again..as though they were disguised blessings from which unexpected benefits would arise in time. Part of..motorists scatter before it. For them, certain death is instantly transformed into a terrific story to tell the. Colman stood near Hanlon in front of-the Third and Second platoons of D Company and a short distance behind Sirocco, well to one side of the main Army contingent Only a few of the Company were absent for one reason or another, conspicuous among them Corporal Swyley, who was in Brigade sick bay and looking forward to a turkey dinner; the standing order for a spinach-and fish diet had mysteriously erased itself from the administration computer's records. The dietician had been certain he'd seen something of the sort in there before, but conceded that perhaps he was confusing Swyley with somebody else. Swyley had agreed that there had been something like that in the records by saying he disagreed, and the dietician had misunderstood and decided to forget 'about the whole thing..Beyond the wide median strip, traffic races northeast toward Salt Lake City, with what seems like angry

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