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Poetry without Grammar

We tell novice instructors that big ideas matter – that math is a technical subject, certainly; but that unless the tools and techniques orient toward big and beautiful ideas, we are technical advisors, teaching all grammar and no poetry. First-year Math students have years of experience being rewarded for doing calculations well; we need to remind them that calculations can be meaningful.

But what happens when we encounter students who don't even have the grammar experience? This talk explores recent experiences in a course aimed at such students. Can we teach poetry without grammar? Should we?