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George E. Andrews* (andrews@math.psu.edu), Department of Mathematics, The Pennsylvania State University, 306 McAllister Building, University Park, PA 16802. *A Fine Dream*.

In his book, *Basic Hypergeometric Series and Applications*, Nathan Fine was able to develop many beautiful properties of q -series, partitions and mock theta functions from a careful study of first-order, non-homogeneous, linear q -difference equations. Fine had remarked during the preparation of his book that he was disappointed in not being able to encompass a proof of the Rogers-Ramanujan identities within this study. The object here is to show that a natural extension of Fine's methods leads directly to a new finite version of the Rogers-Ramanujan identities and, consequently, to a new proof of these celebrated formulas. (Received August 10, 2005)