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Interdisciplinary Teaching and Constrained Writing in the Canisius College All-College Honors  
Program.* Preliminary report.

We found it enjoyable and productive to introduce students to a wide range of mathematical concepts with applications to and overlap with literary constructs. We began with the OULIPO movement, which introduced the axiomatic approach to both mathematics and writing. Students read Georges Perec’s *The Art of Asking Your Boss for a Raise*, which led to a discussion of flow charts, computers, and the Halting Problem. Berge’s story “Who Killed the Duke of Densmore” led to an investigation of interval graphs. Stoppard’s play *Arcadia* gave us many rich opportunities to discuss Fermat’s Last Theorem, determinism, entropy, and chaos theory. Circle-packing problems and the fourth dimension came up in Robbe-Grillet’s *Jealousy*. Stories by Borges brought up topics including computation, the Infinite Monkey Theorem, probability, and mazes. We read excerpts from Perec’s *Life: A User’s Manual*, with digressions on knight’s tours and Graeco-Latin squares. Italo Calvino’s *If on a winter’s night a traveler* brought us to paper folding, book imposition, and kaleidoscopes. From a literary critical perspective, the course highlighted the play of language rather than the primacy of meaning, with special focus on how mathematics as both subject and metaphor structures the literary object. (Received September 25, 2012)