

## POETRY CORNER

UTEP's Lawrence Lesser is often inspired to write songs or poems related to mathematics education topics. Such creative work can communicate important points with more efficiency and emotion for broader audiences, and *TEEM* readers are invited to explore this as well. Other journals that regularly include both articles and poetry related to mathematics education include *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics* ([scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/](http://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/)) and the *Association of Mexican American Educators Journal* ([amaejournal.utsa.edu/index.php/amae](http://amaejournal.utsa.edu/index.php/amae)). Lesser's poem below connects a current sociopolitical setting with a figure (showing varied representations for long division) from Judit Moschkovich's 2013 *TEEM* paper.

### DI / VISION

by Lawrence Mark Lesser

In a New Mexico primary school  
In view of the new bollards,  
María takes on the division problem

*To buy the \$123 medicine he needs,  
How long at his \$7-an-hour job  
Must Juan work?*

María does it  
How her Mexican abuela taught her,  
Each subtrahend kept in her head.

Not seeing  
How different layout yields the answer,  
Her teacher scolds: "Do it the *right* way!"

What dividends if we could share  
Alternative means to reach fact,  
Not alternative facts to reach mean.