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December 2006  
Issue 41

This issue of *Plus* is devoted to the winning entries of the *Plus* New Writers Award 2006.

**Secondary school**

**Winner**



Let 'em roll

Dice are invaluable to many games, especially gambling games, but instead of playing with ordinary 1–6 numbered dice here are two interesting alternatives – with a twist!

**Runner-up**



Drinking coffee in the Klein Café

Dusty books, chalky blackboards and checked shirts are all things usually associated with maths. But according to **Jonathan Tims**, pubs, hot chocolate and cats can be far more inspirational. Join him on a trip through shadow land.

Winner

**General public**

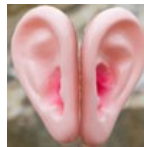
**Winner**



An enormous theorem: the classification of finite simple groups

Enormous is the right word: this theorem's proof spans over 10,000 pages in 500 journal articles and no-one today understands all its details. So what does the theorem say? **Richard Elwes** has a short and sweet introduction.

**Runner-up**



Damn lies

"Lies, damned lies, and statistics..." **Ben Parker** tells us how to tell good statistics from bad, and make sure your cat is well-fed.

## Runner-up



### The death of the lightning calculator

Being good at mental arithmetic isn't going to gain you much street cred these days. But, as **Owen Daniel** explains, not so long ago it was a sure route to fame and fortune even if you were a horse.



### Career interview: Business analyst

From Einstein to water power, *Plus* author Anita King explains where maths has got her.

## Runner-up



### We must know, we will know

Great minds spark controversy. This is something you'd expect to hear about a great philosopher or artist, but not about a mathematician. Get ready to bin your stereotypes as **Rebecca Morris** describes some controversial ideas of the great mathematician David Hilbert.



*Plus* is part of the family of activities in the Millennium Mathematics Project, which also includes the NRICH and MOTIVATE sites.