some myths about math

by OLIVIA WALCH
And Zeus sprang forth from the heavens and said unto the people,

ok so like some of you are going to be good at math and the rest of you are going to suck and that's just how it's gonna be
To this day, we honor Zeus's edict... The next student will please step up to the stage.

Oh, very good. Yes, those times tables, notecards are really paying off. Your parents are having you do extra homework at night? Splendid. Ah, and I see you're a bit of a show-off, too. Well this seems straightforward enough: good at math!

Yer one of us m'dear! For now, at least. We can kick you out any time.

Better hope you like 9th grade geometry.
But it was too late!
And by the time he reached Algebra II,
the hare knew he would never catch up.

There was no hope: the tortoise was always moving forward

So by the time the hare reached where he had been, the tortoise had already moved on from that spot.

And again.

And again.

To the hare, the worst part was:
The tortoise didn’t even have to try.
“Are you alright?” Alice asked the white rabbit, who seemed lost in his own thoughts.

“All right? Yes, I suppose he is,” said the Hatter. “All right-brained, not left. You’re either one or the other, you see. More tea?”

“Is that really so?” came Alice’s inquiry, which was met by the Hatter with a contemptuous toss of his head.

“As different as teacups and oysters, my dear. Ravens and writing desks.” And with a graceful flick of the wrist he moved to spread butter onto his scone. “Like walruses and the moon.”

“Walruses and--?”
THE MOON GOD,

Measurer of the Earth, calculated the heaven and counted the stars.

He made things equal to the same thing equal to each other.

He made 0 and 1 and bent nature around them.

He made the circumference of a circle divided by its diameter close, but not equal, to three.

And when his wife looked on and saw what he had done, she said:

THAT'S PRETTY COOL.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT, TEACH?
—It’s such a rewarding profession!

You really get to see them blossom under your care.

Look: Lucy might only know her scales right now, but if she sticks with it, she can become a virtuoso.

Gary is only painting by number right now, but I see masterpieces in his future.

Yvette is great at her times tables. With enough practice, one day she’ll be able to multiply even bigger numbers.
$5 \times 6 = \text{?}$

Yvette?

Beware: Shoulders of Giants!
OR: what if, instead,
WE TAKE MATH TO BE JUST ANOTHER ART
ONE THAT WITH PASSION AND PRACTICE
...can help anyone to make some sense of their universe.