

## Quadratics

Mary McCory hopped onto her dory  
And rowed up the river one day  
Using oar power, she rowed for one hour  
And then had a notion to play

Jumping out of her boat, she left it to float  
Back down in midstream on its own  
Being healthy and trim, she decided to swim  
Thus stroking back downstream alone

When arrived at the dock, she looked at the clock  
And then watched for her boat to appear  
It was two hours more, exactly, before  
Her boat drifted back to the pier

While leisurely waiting, she began contemplating:  
Suppose she had rowed back instead?  
Her rowing, indeed, was twice her swim speed  
And these thoughts into algebra led

She soon figured out, without any doubt  
The minutes that could have been shaved  
So now I ask you, to figure it through  
With math lessons no doubt you've saved

By using your head, to have rowed back instead  
How much savings in time would it be?  
For the physics fanatic, it's best solved quadratic  
Ah, but that negative root baffles me!

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