1. Continue our discussion and your writing from class by composing a short paper (two to three pages) about your experiences with mathematics, what mathematical thought implies to you, what place mathematics has in terms of human thought in general, or some similar topic from class that piqued your interest. This paper should basically be an elaboration of what you wrote in class – you don’t need to write an entirely new paper.

In order to give your writing some weight, you need to connect it to common experience. Spend some time writing about how your experience with math relates (or doesn’t relate!) to other things in your life, intellectual or not.

2. Read the first half (Part I) of Edwin Abbott Abbott’s Flatland. This is a strange book: the first half is a satire of Victorian society and the second half is an exploration of the idea of dimension. Give some thought to the physics of Flatland – do you think Abbott’s description is plausible? Can you think of problems that Flatlanders might experience which we do not? Try imagining yourself as a Flatlander. How could you figure out the size of your universe? The shape?

You don’t need to write about these questions yet, just give them some thought and come up with some interesting things to say about them in class on Thursday. You may want to make some short notes about points you wanted to bring up, and bookmark relevant pages. Come to class ready to tell me interesting things about your reading!