

ROBIN CHAPMAN

Math Education

At four, Dottie showed me her game
of how to match the stars on cards
of two and three to five, as simple
as counting and giving away.

And my father, the art of finding the secret
of which two of his fingers or thumbs
would unlock his leg trap—the principle of systematic search
to let you remember what you'd done.

From high school, the translation of gesture
and string to points on a grid and measuring,
matching geometry to algebra, working to find
as many ways to solve a problem as we could.

That math could be starburst discovery,
as exciting as any game of hide and seek.

From *Six True Things*, by Robin Chapman, Huntington Beach: Tebot Bach, 2016.