

Tree clambering

mysteries wait patiently to be revealed as we contemplate questions to which
we have not yet found answers

in the unbounded tree of our imagination

among branches

found

am

I

MARIAN CHRISTIE

This poem is inspired by the Markov tree, a technique for obtaining solutions to the Markov equation $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 3xyz$, where x , y and z are positive integers. Solutions (which occur in triples) are known as Markov numbers. In one of mathematics' many beautiful relationships, every second number in the Fibonacci sequence is also a Markov number, i.e. 1, 2, 5, 13, 34, 89.... This is indicated by the number of letters in each line of the poem (89, 34, 13, 5, 2 and 1 respectively). The poem may be read from the top down, or from the bottom up.

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