

# STEM Society Meeting, January 9, 2018

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## **1 About the STEM Society and the STEM Society Website**

STEM is an abbreviation for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The acronym STEM is commonly associated with K-12 education, but our use of the term is only slightly bound to this meaning. There are over one hundred people on the mailing list, although a much smaller group attends any one meeting. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Trailside Center at 99th and Holmes in Kansas City, Missouri. The meetings are open to all. The start time is 6PM. We make presentations, have

discussions, and have demonstration experiments. These relate to Science, the History of Science, Mathematics, Engineering, Philosophy and Technology at all levels. The topics have ranged from a technical discussion of the Mathematics of General Relativity to scientific experiments for young students.

These meeting notes contain links to many other documents, which may be viewed or downloaded by clicking the link. A partial list of documents can be reached by clicking the heading **Documents**. The meeting notes may also be viewed in an archive file (archive.pdf), which is in the list of documents. Many of the documents are PDF files. They may be viewed or downloaded to the computer by clicking, provided Adobe Reader, or another program capable of reading PDF files, is present. There are many more documents available at the site than are listed under **Documents** because the documents.htm file is not at all up to date. The last time I checked, about March 2014, there were about 350 document files on the site. We are in the process of creating better techniques for finding documents and authors. The first meeting of the STEM Society was in November of 2006.

**The web site is:**

<http://www.stem2.org/>

**Direct to the documents list:**

<http://www.stem2.org/je/documents.htm>

**Direct to the archive file:**

<http://www.stem2.org/je/archive.pdf>

## **2 The January 9, 2018 Meeting Announcement**

The January meeting of the STEM Society will take place on the second Tuesday of the month, January 9, 2018, at the Trailside Center at 99th and Holmes in Kansas City, Missouri. The starting time is 6PM. Also look at our website for past meeting notes:

**The website is:**

<http://www.stem2.org/>

Topics and Discussions:

(a) Marc Robinson will talk about **Language, Death, and Documentation**.

(b) If there is left over time we can talk about other topics. So if you have something of interest you want to talk about, by all means bring it in.

(c) If there is even more time, I have topics available, in Mathematics, Physics, Programming, and concerning our Website, one of which I may tidy up over the weekend.

### **3 Marc Robinson: Language Death and Documentation**

#### **4 Carl Sagan Quote**

I have a foreboding of an America in my children's or grandchildren's time ... when awesome technological powers are in the hands of a very few, and no one representing the public interest can even grasp the issues; when the people have lost the ability to set their own agendas or knowledgeably question those in authority; when clutching our crystals and nervously consulting our horoscopes, our critical faculties in decline, unable to distinguish between what feels good and what's true, we slide, almost without noticing, back into superstitions and darkness.

Carl Sagan

[1] Sagan Carl, **The Demon Haunted World**.

## 5 Little Girls and Little Boys

Here's a long version of What Are Little Girls Made of?  
as found in The Baby's Opera by Walter Crane (circa 1877):

1. What are little boys made of?  
What are little boys made of?  
Frogs and snails and puppy-dog's tails,  
And that are little boys made of.

2. What are little girls made of?  
What are little girls made of?  
Sugar and spice and all that's nice,  
And that are little girls made of.

3. What are young men made of?  
What are young men made of?  
Sighs and leers, and crocodile tears,  
And that are young men made of.

4. What are young women made of?  
What are young women made of?  
Ribbons and laces, and sweet pretty faces,  
And that are young women made of.

From Wikipedia, "*Walter Crane (15 August 1845 14 March 1915) was an English artist and book illustrator. He is considered to be the most influential, and among the most prolific, childrens book creators of his generation and, along with Randolph Caldecott and Kate Greenaway, one of the strongest contributors to the child's nursery motif that the genre of English children's illustrated literature would exhibit in its developmental stages in the latter 19th century.*"

He is likely not the original creator of the original nursery rhyme, of which I have not found the original source.

## 6 The Punishment Must Fit The Crime

For justice to be served, "The punishment must fit the crime." This is either a principle of English common law, or something written by Gilbert and Sullivan in an operetta, at any rate it is true. Perhaps this idea was argued in a Platonic dialogue?

A blatant examples of the failure of this principle of justice, includes

1. Hanging young children pickpockets in London in the 19th century, in order completely to do away with the irritant of children pickpockets.
2. Executing male dogs (and some females), for the crime of humping human legs.
3. Sentencing those found with possessing a given amount of Marijuana to a mandatory twenty year sentence in prison, in order to wipe out Marijuana use in the United States. These people were being sentenced for being guilty of all Marijuana use, which is not the crime they have committed.
4. The killing of hundreds of drug users in the Philippines, directed by president Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines, for being individually guilty for all drug use, not just for their own drug use.

Other blatant examples of lack of justice might be the Blacklisting of writers in the movie industry in the 1950's, who were accused of communistic sympathies, not to mention the Holocaust where millions of people were accused and executed for being Jewish, and then there is the murdering of millions of people in Russia by Stalin for being counterrevolutionary, whatever that happened to be in his opinion. Also there is the current craze for the summary execution of some people for driving while black.

## **7 A Python Program for Those Who Sometimes Find Themselves Driving While Slightly Drunk**