

The following was found on

<http://www.casualhacker.net/tom.lehrer/index.html>

1 That's Mathematics by Tom Lehrer

Counting sheep
When you're trying to sleep,
Being fair
When there's something to share,
Being neat
When you're folding a sheet,
That's mathematics!

When a ball
Bounces off of a wall,
When you cook
From a recipe book,
When you know
How much money you owe,
That's mathematics!

How much gold can you hold in an elephant's ear?
When it's noon on the moon, then what time is it here?
If you could count for a year, would you get to infinity,
Or somewhere in that vicinity?

When you choose
How much postage to use,
When you know
What's the chance it will snow,
When you bet
And you end up in debt,
Oh try as you may,
You just can't get away
From mathematics!

Andrew Wiles gently smiles,
Does his thing, and voila!
Q.E.D., we agree,
And we all shout hurrah!
As he confirms what Fermat
Jotted down in that margin,
Which could've used some enlargin'.

Tap your feet,
Keepin' time to a beat,
Of a song
While you're singing along,
Harmonize
With the rest of the guys,
Yes, try as you may,
You just can't get away
From mathematics!

2 The interpretation

The stanza which talks about Andrew Wiles is a reference to the proof of Fermat's last theorem, which was proposed by Fermat, found in the margin of a book after his death in 1665, and was finally proven by Andrew Wiles (a mathematician at Princeton) 350 year later, in 1994.

Fermat's last theorem asserts that $x^n + y^n = z^n$ has no whole number solutions for values of $n > 2$.