

College of Charleston Math Meet 2011

All Day Sprint: The Professor's Messy Desk



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Math professors are famous for having messy offices, but this professor's desk has some interesting books, DVDs and CDs strewn across it. All of them have names and titles containing *numbers*. The professor knows he was supposed to bring one of the things on the desk to class with him to lend to a student, but he cannot remember which one. Use the clues below and fill in the blanks to determine which object he should take. (Hint: All of the clues refer to items on the desk and not to other books, movies or bands that you might be able to think of.)

1. Two relatively recent DVDs on the desk have titles containing the number x .
 $x = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
2. Below one of the movies with the number x in the title is a CD by a musical group with the number n in the band name. $n = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
3. There is *another* CD on the desk by a musical group with the number n in their name. Their name also contains a non-numerical word with m letters. $m = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
4. There is a non-fiction book on the desk with the number m in its title. Just to the right of that is another non-fiction book with the number p in its title. $p = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
5. A classic science fiction book about a society that burns books has the number $h = x^2 + m + p + 1$ in its title. $h = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
6. Just to the right of the book with h in its title is an even older classic with the number q in the title. $q = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
7. There is another book by the author of the one with q in its title and it has the number y in its title. $y = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
8. One book on the desk (about the future, ten years ago) has the number w in its title where w has the same first p digits as y . $w = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
9. To the left of the book with the number w in its title is a (comic) book whose title simply *is* the number R . $R = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
10. The product of the digits of the number R is z . $z = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
11. There is a book on the desk whose title explicitly mentions the number z , and just to the left of that book there is an equation written in blue ink on some paper. What is the equation? $\underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
12. As it turns out, this equation was written as a reminder of what the professor wanted to bring. It is a clue to understanding one of the titles. What is the title of the book, DVD or CD that the professor wanted to bring? $\underline{\hspace{2cm}}$