 is for...

GROUP THEORY

Every generation of advanced math students must tackle group theory while in school. The field of study may not have the murder or intrigue of other hot topics (like, say, topology or knot theory), but the business of equivalence relations, rings, and Abelian operators is one that should not be overlooked. Despite the hue and cry that might arise from, or the pandemonium that might beset a neophyte, the study of groups is not the plague that many make it out to be. Rather, it is more likely that the student's pride has simply taken a beating, for until now the greatest unkindness mathematics may have shown him or her is to demand the manipulation of a function or an array (determinants, anyone?)

But fear not, puzzle solver! Your shrewdness as a sleuth has probably allowed you to figure out that this diatribe really *has nothing to do with mathematics*. Your mental labor is best focused on other ways to find the elusive solution.

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(1:3)(4:2)(3:1)(11:5)(10:2)
(3:1)(4:4)(14:3)(14:1)(9:1)
(4:5)(10:4)(6:5)(13:1)(8:3)
(12:4)(2:2)(6:4)(15:3)(9:5)
(3:1)(15:2)(9:4)(9:6)(12:6)
        (7:3)(5:1)
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