

## Myth about Me

I have always had a very curious mind. I like to wander, explore, and poke things until something happens to them (in a figurative sense of course). I have always felt compelled to find out something new and people in my life have often remarked on how I ask questions frequently. However, I think that asking too many questions shows that one is not capable of figuring out the things they wonder on their own.

In the third grade, I remember being issued with a set of colored buttons in class. The teacher instructed us to leave them in a pile on the corner of our desks until we were told what to do with them. That day, our teacher taught us how to multiply. She said, "If I make three groups with two buttons in each, how many buttons do I have?". Soon after realizing that two lots of three makes six, I became bored and started to make my own patterns with the buttons. I wondered, *what if I take two buttons, and then double them to make four, and then double them to make eight?* By the time I reached 16, I had run out of markers, but that was the day taught myself exponentiation.

During the fourth grade, I began to realize just how much I enjoyed arithmetic and the excitement of figuring out new math on my own. My class often played a game where we would take turns to stand poised in front of the white board, ready to write the solution to a problem that the teacher would call. The questions were mostly arithmetic to be calculated inside our heads. I was always the first to get the answers. I could never understand how it could take some of my peers so long to work out simple arithmetic – it flowed as easily from my brain to my fingertips as speech or walking did.

For a period of time around age 13, I became intrigued by the problem of perpetual motion would often spend hours doodling in my notebook ideas for how to generate energy from nothing. I had convinced myself that the way to do it was with magnets. After a while I came to a roadblock and a model that somewhat resembled a stargate with triangular prism –shaped magnets and I wasn't quite sure how to harvest the energy that I would be generating once I had a working model.

At this point, I talked to my dad and consulted him about electrostatics and magnetism. We talked about induction coiled and how current can be induced by magnets. This spurred the idea to add some component incorporating induction that I set out to design by myself.

One day I was sitting in a physics class at school and my teacher informed us that we would be studying electronegativity and magnetism for the next part of the term. The very first thing he drew on the board very closely resembled the device that I had taken all those years to design. He called it a dynamo and explained that it can also be used in reverse as an electric motor by applying current to the system. I found it distressing to the point of tears to know that something so seemingly original already existed and had such a simple name. although my design was much more complex (much like an algebraic expression before it is simplified to look neater on the page), it still contained the basic elements that the dynamo does, with functionality also in close form.