Abstract algebra is required, rightly so, for college students preparing to teach high school mathematics, but the standard course is notoriously unpopular. We describe the course, offer an analysis of its unpopularity, and describe a way to make it more lovable, more aligned with the recommendations in the recent revision of the CBMS book “The Mathematical Education of Teachers” (MET-II) and, above all, more useful.

We have listened to many high school teachers and college educators, and, as a result, we have redone the standard syllabus, without “dumbing it down,” so that it better connects with students’ prior experience and makes explicit connections to the profession of teaching high school mathematics. The talk will detail our ideas. (Received September 18, 2012)