Exercise 65

For the following exercises, use the given information about the polynomial graph to write the equation.

Degree 4. Roots of multiplicity 2 at $x = \frac{1}{2}$ and roots of multiplicity 1 at x = 6 and x = -2. y-intercept at (0, 18).

Solution

Based on the zeros, the model polynomial function is

$$f(x) = A\left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 (x - 6)(x + 2).$$

Use the provided point (0, 18) to determine A.

$$18 = A\left(0 - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 (0 - 6)(0 + 2) \quad \to \quad 18 = A(-3) \quad \to \quad A = -6$$

Therefore,

$$f(x) = -6\left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 (x - 6)(x + 2).$$

