

## An Expanded Routine for Solving Story Problems

**Review the text of the story and read it aloud.** Encourage students to visualize what is happening in the story as you tell it. Suggest/ask:

- Close your eyes.
- Picture what is happening.
- Make a movie in your mind.
- What did you see? What happened in the story?

**Act out/retell the story.** Options:

- Several students retell the story in their own words. Or, ask students to “turn and talk” to tell each other the story.
- Acting out the story, using objects/counters to model the story, and making sketches can help students visualize the action of the problem.

**Think through the problem.**

- What do we know?
- What are we trying to figure out?
- Will there be more or less at the end of the story? How do you know?
- Is this a story about combining groups? removing a group? Comparing groups? Equal groups? Sharing?
- What’s an equation that shows what the problem is asking? (Note that there might be more than one.)

**If students need support...**

**...getting started**

- Is there something you know that can help you solve this problem?
- Does this problem remind you of any others we’ve solved before?
- What strategy might you use to solve this problem? (Refer to charts/posters/resources in the room.)
- What tool might you use to help you solve this problem? (e.g. cubes, number line, 100 chart, stickers)

**...recording their work**

- What did you do first? How can you show that? What did you do next? How can you show that?

**Review their work**

- How did you solve the problem? Can you explain to me your steps?
- How do these numbers/this equation connect to your representation? to the story?
- Does your answer make sense? Does it seem reasonable?