

The **FUNbook** of Math Word Problems

Another Teaching Resource from...

REM 104A



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Dear Teachers and Parents,

When confronted with math word problems, some students suddenly discover that they have urgent business in the nurse's office. The **FUNbook of Math Word Problems** was written to help keep students in their seats so they can practice needed skills. As a classroom teacher for over 20 years, I know how difficult it is to provide enough practice in each skill area as well as to keep interest and enthusiasm high. My students love to read these math word problems aloud. Not only do most students willingly practice their math skills, but reluctant readers also volunteer to read.

This book can be used in a variety of ways. For instance, I introduce a skill using the math text. Then I make copies of a page from the **FUNbook** and use it during the next class period for practice. Students needing little or no help work on the practice problems while I work with students needing more help.

I also write one word problem on the blackboard each day. It is on the board when the students arrive. They solve it sometime during the morning, and we all read it aloud in the afternoon.

I also split the class into teams and have them work a page of problems. The team members all have to come up with answers, and if some answers are different, each has to justify his or her own answer. By doing this, the correct ways for solving the problems are modeled for slower students.

Finally, I ask students to generate their own word problems and give them to others to solve.

My students just think they are having fun while doing math. But they really are:

- Reinforcing their math skills through practice
- Modeling positive behaviors and problem-solving skills for slower or younger students
- Reading silently and aloud with a group
- Improving their writing skills

I am sure that the **FUNbook of Math Word Problems** will motivate your students in class and at home.

Sincerely,

Dennis E. Paul

ABOUT THE BOOK

Math practice becomes a fun activity as students solve word problems that include humor, exaggerations, amusing names, and unusual situations. The unique approach to reinforcing math skills in the ***FUNbook of Math Word Problems*** will capture the interest of those students who enjoy the challenge of solving math problems as well as reluctant learners who need special encouragement. Reading Level is 3.5–4.5.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dennis Paul has been an educator for over twenty years. He taught for eleven years in a one-room school, working with students in grades K-8. He also has served as a special education teacher in a school for homeless students, and as a teacher for acute care adolescent hospital programs.

Currently, he is a special education teacher for the Juvenile Detention Facility in Mesa, Arizona. For many years, he has been creating math word problems, story starters, games, and other materials, to help motivate his own students.

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Name _____

Addition / Subtraction



Uncle Floyd and Cousin Chester in a sneeze-off

1. Nelly Flick went to the movies 16 Saturdays in a row.
Her best friend, Rita, went to the movies 23 Saturdays
in a row. How many times did both girls go to the
movies in all? _____
2. Benny Zingle ate 17 jars of applesauce every day. His
sister Bunny ate 13 jars of applesauce every day. How
many more jars of applesauce did Benny eat every day? _____
3. Uncle Floyd caught 12 colds last winter. Cousin Chester
caught 28. In all, how many colds did they both have? _____
4. Seymore Rane sleeps for 19 hours a day. His sister
Leena sleeps for 11 hours. How many more hours does
Seymore sleep than Leena? _____
5. Sally Dloon made \$6.00 for polishing the toaster, \$2.00
for washing the dog, and \$9.00 for practicing her tuba
in the backyard. How much money did Sally earn in all? _____

Name _____

Addition / Subtraction



Bonehead and what's left of his bowl

1. Nick Ding went to Fern's Supermarket. He bought a string bean for 19¢, a potato chip for 7¢, a banana for 10¢, and a grape for 3¢. How much money did Nick spend?

2. Helda Fish has 32 hamsters. Her friend Carl has 28 hamsters. How many more hamsters does Helda have than Carl?

3. Oscar Flink's dog Bonehead needs a new water bowl. He ate the last one by mistake. A new bowl costs 99¢. Oscar has 63¢ in his bank. How much more money does Oscar need to buy the bowl?

4. Elmo Zlerg works at the Ajax Doorknob Factory. He polished 33 doorknobs before lunch. Then he polished 39 doorknobs after lunch. How many doorknobs did Elmo polish in all?

5. Melba Buckle is taking a trip to her Uncle Chester's house in North Dakota. He lives 47 miles away. Melba has driven her car 27 miles. How many more miles must Melba drive?
