**Strategies for Solving Word Problems**

1. **Read the problem *thoughtfully***
   * Read to punctuation, then stop, and show (draw/label/do) that small part
   * Circle what we know
   * Underline the question
   * Retell/summarize what happened (what’s going on in the story)
   * *Think:* *Are we trying to find a whole or a part?*
2. **Take the question and answer itwith a complete sentence with a blank for the number.**
3. **Draw a model of the story**
   * *Think: Is it a part/whole problem?*
   * *Think: Is it a comparing problem?*
   * A rectangle (bar model) usually works for the above situations, but sometimes another model may be helpful too.
   * Label the bars/units or any other parts of the model.
   * Put numbers.
   * Put a question mark for what you’re figuring out.
4. **Write the equation.**
   * Multiplication, division, and fractions need equal groups.
5. **Solve the problem.**
6. **See if it’s a reasonable answer for the situation. If so, fill in the blank. If not, try again!**

* Estimation and rounding can help you decide if it’s reasonable.