**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.