

The Dreaded “Story Problem”



- **S** – Survey
- **Q** – Question
- **R** – Read - reread
- **Q** – Question
- **C** – Compute
- **Q** – Question

Word Problem:

Shelley has some porcelain tea cups. She was given 8 more for Christmas. Now she has 15. How many porcelain tea cups did she have before.

Follow These Steps to Solve Story Problems:

- S**urvey: Carefully read the entire word problem to learn what it is about. Clarify any terms you don't understand.
- Q**uestion: State the problem in the form of a question. What is the problem asking for?
- R**ead/Re-Read: Reading the problem out loud, visualizing it, or drawing a picture can help one state the problem as a question. This third step of reading/rereading helps to identify facts, discover the relevant information, and to pick out the details that are needed to solve the problem.
- Q**uestion: Formulate another question that focuses on what mathematical operation(s) to apply. Write the question in mathematical terms.
- C**ompute: Solve the problem you wrote above.
- Q**uestion: Ask, “Could this answer be correct? Does this answer make sense when I look back at the original problem?”