

Michael Davydov

Professor Kushya Sugarman

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Student Interview

Question: Aaron received a gift of many basketball cards on his birthday. He gives nine cards to his classmate, Joseph. Now, Aaron has thirty-nine cards. How many cards did Aaron start out with?

The question I asked the student to determine the strategies he used was: “What are you thinking about in order to solve the problem?” He replied with: “ $39+9$ ” because Aaron gives away nine cards and the student is reversing the strategy and instead of subtracting nine cards, he adds nine cards. Aaron gives away nine cards then has 39, so the student said: “if his classmate gives him back the cards, he has what he originally started with” and his answer was 48. It is a counting strategy because he counted and solved the problem of $39+9 = 48$. I asked: “Is there another way to write the answer to the problem?” He said he could do $9+39 = 48$ and $48-9=39$. Also, instead of saying “many”, the question could say 48 because it is how much Aaron had in the beginning. He mentioned how “gives away” are subtraction words. I would use this information to further the student’s understanding by asking if he could solve the problem using a drawing.

Picture of student work:

