

Student interview

4th grader

Anna rides her bike to school 2 miles. And she rides her bike home for another 2 miles. How many miles in total does Anna ride her bike? How many miles does she ride her bike in 40 days?

(This is not the problem that I wrote on my other task but this is a problem that we encountered while student-teaching. I did spend quite sometime with some students as they were having a difficult time to understand the actions that they would take to solve the problem.)

Teacher: Read the problem carefully and see what is it asking you to do. This word problem has two parts.

Student: (Reads the problem) It says total, therefore we need to sum 2 miles to school and 2 miles from home. $2+2=4$

Teacher: Correct

Student: I don't understand the second part.

Teacher: Read it carefully. We just found out Anna rides her bike 4 miles in one day. The problem is asking us how about in 40 days? What is the action we will do?

Student: 4×40

Teacher: Correct. Just do the calculations.

Student: (Doesn't know to multiply the 4×40 therefore he draws 40 boxes with 4 inside

Teacher: There is an easier way how to solve that. Just do 4×4 and then add the zero to the result from the 40. Remember 40 can be written 4×10 .

Students: $4 \times 4 = 16$ then I will add the zero and is 160.

Teacher correct.

Student used number sense strategy with my help. He did use counting too. From this problem I understood that most of the class has issues what action should they take depending on the problem. I went back and explained that Addition is sum, total, add, increase by, more than.

Subtraction: minus, greater than, take away, fewer than, less than.

Multiplication: Product, times, multiply by.