

1) Ben and his Grandmother go to the store to purchase Papayas. If Ben's Grandmother carries 6 and Ben carries 5. How many papayas will they purchase altogether?

To make this word problem more diverse I would change it to the following. Please note that the majority of my Salish and/or Kootenai students refer to their Grandmothers as "Yaya". We also live in Montana (where it would be rare to be able to buy papayas, so I doubt that my students would know what they are). I also changed the word "purchase" to a more formal word "buy".

Ben and his Yaya go to the store to buy bananas. If Ben's Yaya carries 6 bananas and Ben carries 5 bananas, how many bananas will they buy altogether?

2) Jacob and Jack walked 1 mile to the Shopping Mall, then they walked 2 miles to the Museum. And another 4 miles to go back home. How many miles did Jacob and Jack walk today?

To make this word problem more relatable to my students who live in a rural town (which has a School, a bar, a senior citizen center and a Post Office) I replaced mall and museum with more familiar places to them. I also replaced the name Jack to a girl's name to eliminate gender bias.

Haley and Jacob walked 1 mile to the Post office, then they walked another 2 miles to the River. And another 4 miles to go back home. How many miles did Haley and Jacob walk today?

3) Ryan attends the barn dance with Lily. It costs \$2.50 per person. They also buy sandwiches for \$3.00 each and a bottle of water for \$1.50. How much money did they spend?

To make this word problem more diverse I changed barn dance to a Native American celebration dance that most of the students go to (and dance in) every summer (which is free). I also changed the food item to one that is sold at the dance and is popular amongst our Native and Non-Native population. This makes the word problem much more relatable to the population at my school.

Ryan and Lily attend the Pow-wow. They buy Indian Tacos for \$3.00 each and a bottle of water for \$1.50. How much money did they spend?