

Benny Learns

THE

CUBS

Strategy

A math story about understanding
word problems the right way!

By Numeracy Consultants

Illustrated by Adobe Firefly · ©Numeracy Consultants LLC 2024



To Hazel, a future star in this world

About this Book

Benny Learns The CUBS Strategy stands as a testament to our ongoing mission at Numeracy Consultants: to furnish high-quality math intervention programs and materials for students. We firmly believe that every student deserves the guidance of a highly trained math professional, and every teacher is entitled to access the most advanced math training and resources available. Our commitment remains unwavering until every student is paired with a high-caliber math educator. Together, we strive towards a future where excellence in math education is the norm, empowering every learner to reach their full potential.

For more resources, please visit our website!

www.numeracyconsultants.net



Benny the bear cub tumbled out of bed, sunlight tickling his furry nose. Today wasn't just any day — it was Word Problem Day at Honeycomb School!

Benny bounced around his room, his excitement buzzing louder than a bee in a rosebush.



"Word problems!" he cheered, scaring a sleepy bumblebee off his window. "Finally, math that tells a real story!"

Breakfast flew by in a flurry of honeyed toast and giggles. Benny raced out the door, his backpack bouncing like a happy huckleberry. School couldn't come fast enough!



At school, Miss Honey greeted the class with a warm smile. "Today, little cubs, we're going on a delicious adventure! We'll use word problems to figure out how many cookies Mrs. Honeybee needs to bake for the school picnic!"

Benny's excitement fizzled like a damp firecracker. The word problem on the board read: "Mrs. Honeybee has 2 bags of flour. Each bag makes 12 cookies. How many cookies can she bake?"



Benny frowned. He stared at the numbers. Were they clues? Were they traps? He had no idea where to begin. Around him, his classmates buzzed with activity, drawing diagrams and filling in their worksheets.

Lunchtime arrived, but Benny couldn't swallow a single blueberry. His head hung lower than a drooping sunflower.

He was worried that he would never be able to solve word problems.



Numbers swam before Benny's eyes. He didn't know if he should circle something, underline something, or just guess.

"What even is the question asking?" he whispered. He felt completely lost.



At lunch, Benny sat by himself, his blueberries untouched. "Maybe I'm just not a math cub," he thought sadly.

He was so worried — not because the numbers were hard, but because he didn't know how to think about the problem at all.



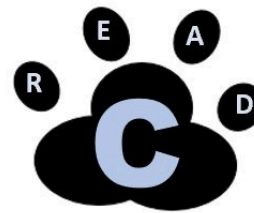
"What's wrong, Benny?" his mother, Mama Bear, asked gently after school.

Benny, tears welling up, told her all about the impossible cookies.

"Don't worry, sweetie," Mama Bear smiled. "Word problems are really little stories hiding inside math. You need to understand the story first — and I know just the strategy: The CUBS Strategy!"

Benny wiped his tears. That sounded like something he could try.

CUBS Strategy



Read the Problem and Comprehend

Say what is happening in your own words



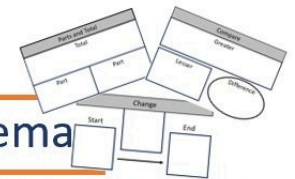
Reread the Problem and Understand the Schema?

Is problem dealing with a total, parts, change, compare, equal groups?



Reread and Build the Schema

Build the problem using a graphic organizer.



Summarize and Solve



+ - x ÷ =



Taking a deep breath, Benny followed the CUBS Strategy.

"C — Comprehend," he said. "Mrs. Honeybee has 2 bags of flour. Each bag makes 12 cookies. This is a story about baking!"

"U — Understand the Schema. What type of problem is this? It is a TOTAL problem!"

"B — Build the Schema. I have two parts that make a whole!" He drew a diagram with two boxes joining into one big box.

"S — Summarize and Solve. 12 plus 12 equals 24 cookies!" Benny exclaimed, a huge smile spreading across his face.



The next day at school, Benny was ready.

When Miss Honey wrote the word problem on the board, Benny didn't panic. He read it like a story, thought about what was happening, and drew his diagram.

When Miss Honey asked for the answer, Benny's paw shot into the air. He gave the right answer — and explained every step!


"Wonderful, Benny!" Miss Honey beamed. "You didn't just find the answer — you understood the whole story!"

From that day on, Benny wasn't afraid of word problems anymore. With his CUBS Strategy, he could understand any math story that came his way!

Remember, little cubs — whenever you face a tricky word problem, just think of CUBS!

With a little strategy and a lot of courage, you can understand any math story!

CUBS Strategy



R **E** **A** **D**
C

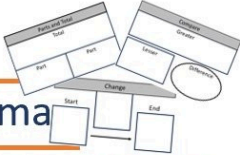
Read the Problem and Comprehend
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Reread the Problem and Understand the Schema?
Is problem dealing with a total, parts, change, compare, equal groups?


R **E** **A** **D**
B

Reread and Build the Schema
Build the problem using a graphic organizer.



R **E** **A** **D**
S

Summarize and Solve



+ **-** **x** **÷** **=**



Benny was bursting with excitement about Word Problem Day!

They sounded like adventures — with stories and numbers all mixed up!
But as Benny stared at his paper, his smile faded. These problems weren't adventures at all — they were confusing!

Will Benny crack the code of word problems? Join him and his mom as they discover that every word problem is really a story — and the CUBS Strategy is the key to understanding it!

For more free resources and training for the CUBS Strategy, please visit:

www.numeracyconsultants.net