THE 2024 YOUNG MATHEMATICAL STORY AUTHORS (YMSA) COMPETITION

THE STUART J. MURPHY AWARD

(THE 8-11 YEARS OLD CATEGORY)

LONGLISTED

‘Dividing with Monkeys’ by Cailey Ng (9 years old)

at Harrow International School Hong Kong (China)

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#YMSAMaths

Dividing with Monkey!
's
Harrow International School Hong Kong
BY Cailey Ng 4W
Oh no!
that monkey has more than the other!
Happy
angry
6
0
4
MONKEY'S !!!

Deep in the jungle there lived a monkey named Banana she stayed in this very big cottage near a river in the Amazon Rainforest with her parents and her very mean brother. It was starting to get late but Banana's parents haven't came back yet, because they were collecting food for Banana and her brother Rocky.

So Banana had an idea, she put her coat on and went outside to get bananas from her neighbors. Luckily they are really kind and gave her ten bananas.

When she got back home her Mom and Dad were already home. Rocky had already told Banana's parents that she had gone out to fetch some bananas because she was starving. Mom and dad thought she was really responsible and gave her one extra banana. Soon after, they went to bed on the couch.

The next morning Banana woke up for breakfast but Rocky had already handed out the food. Banana’s plate only had a little bit of bananas but Rocky's plate had way more.

"No fair!" shouted Banana.

"Well I'm bigger then you so I should get more food," explained Rocky.

"But Rocky, I learnt something at school, it's called division so that means each of us get 5 bananas because 10 ÷ 2 = 5 ."

Soon after Banana made a chart on the fridge.

2 ÷ 2 = 1	10 ÷ 2 = 5	18 ÷ 2 = 9	26 ÷ 2 = 13
4 ÷ 2 = 2	12 ÷ 2 = 6	20 ÷ 2 = 10	28 ÷ 2 = 14
6 ÷ 2 = 3	14 ÷ 2 = 7	22 ÷ 2 = 11	30 ÷ 2 = 15
8 ÷ 2 = 4	16 ÷ 2 = 8	24 ÷ 2 = 12	32 ÷ 2 = 16

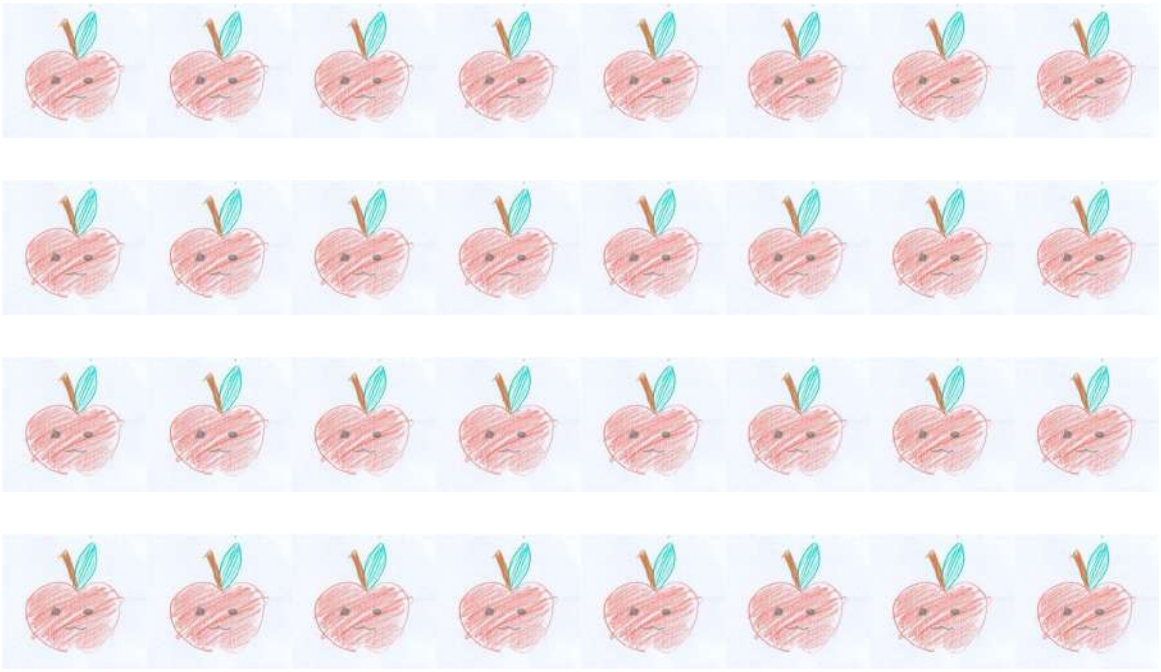
"Look Rocky, we have 30 peanuts a day after school right? So that means we each get 15 because 30 ÷ 2 = 15."

Banana then asked Rocky "Do you understand how to make it fair now?"

Rocky said, "I kind of understand now."

Rocky then ask Banana, "What if we need to split some apples with mom and dad?"

Banana then explained to Rocky that it is very simple division. "We have 32 apples, if we split them between the 4 of us, how many apples will each person get?"



Rocky then wrote down the equation 32 ÷ 4 = 8.
Banana said, "That is correct!" She then explained that to make sure the answer is correct, we can multiply 4 people with 8 apples and we will get a total of 32 apples. Rocky then divided the apples evenly for all 4 of them to eat.

Later in the afternoon Banana's mom asked her to help divide the chores up between Rocky, Banana, and her mom. They have 60 hours of chores a week including mopping the floor, cleaning the bedrooms, washing the cars, and washing the dishes.

Banana explained that we have 60 hours of chores divided between 3 people. So Banana wrote down a new equation, 60 ÷ 3 = 20. Banana checked to see if her division is correct by multiplying 3 by 20 hours, 3 x 20 = 60.

Banana then realized that she has 20 hours of chores to do this week. She then yelled, "Oh No!"