



## THE 2021 YOUNG MATHEMATICAL STORY AUTHOR (YMSA) COMPETITION

THE STUART J. MURPHY AWARD  
(THE 8-11 YEARS OLD CATEGORY)

### SHORTLISTED

'The Sugar Fiasco' by Lucy Burrige (8 years old)  
Homeschooling (Canada)

You can read the author's inspiration for the story and the judges' comments  
on:

[www.mathsthroughstories.org/ymsa2021](http://www.mathsthroughstories.org/ymsa2021)

#YMSAMaths

# The Sugar Fiasco

By: Lucy Burrige  
(Homeschooled)



In the town of St. John's seven friends named Cho, Claudia, Sara, Bobby, Hala, Mario and Meredith lived. They're all ten years old and they met when they were three.



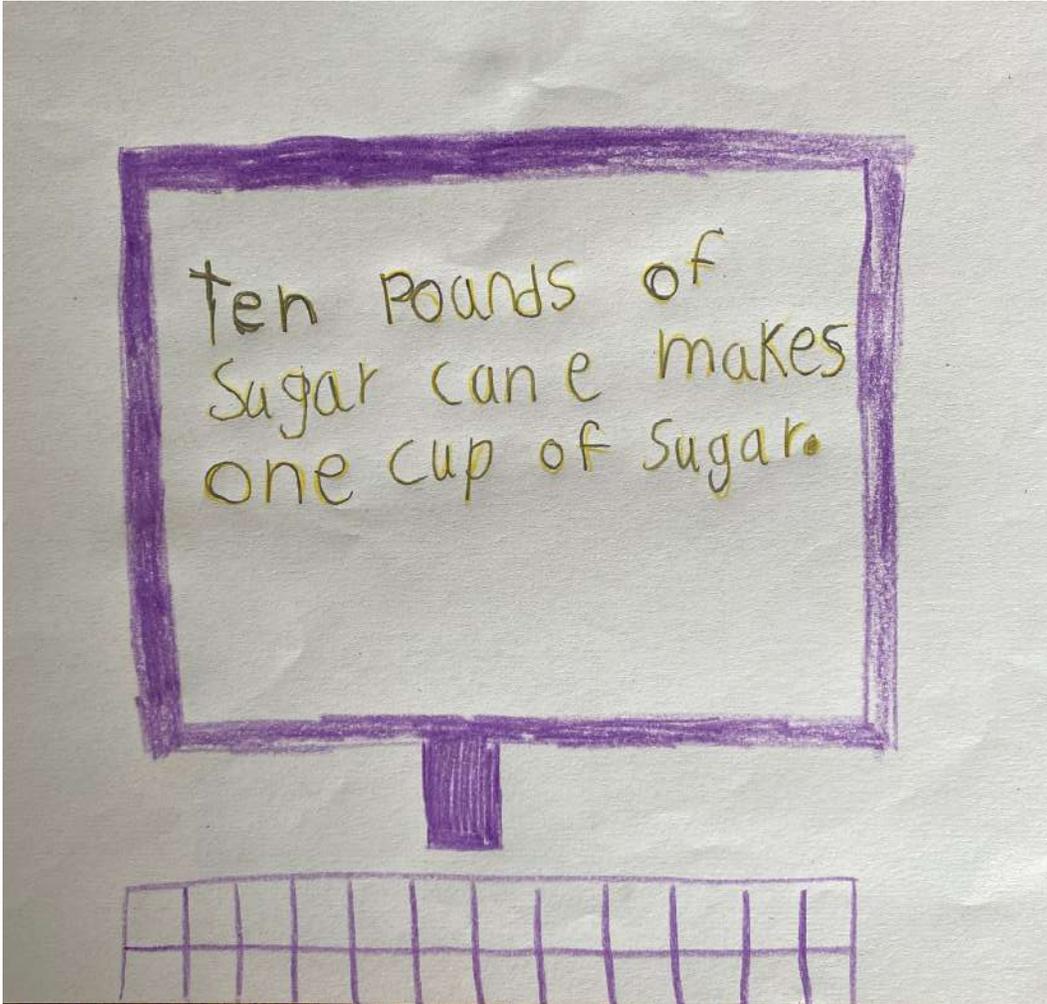
Every year Hala's mom makes Mexican Buñuelos as a traditional dessert. When Hala and her friends were seven Hala's mom got sick when she was to make the Bunuelos so Hala and her friends made them for her. Ever since then they loved to bake.

When the friends turned ten Cho's gran decided to give them an old building because she knew they loved to bake. The friends were delighted. Cho, Claudia, Sara, Bobby, Hala, Mario, and Meredith started a bakery.



The kids had so many customers! As a result, the town's grocery store ran out of sugar. The kids knew that there were many sugar cane fields two kilometres away. But how much sugar cane to harvest?

The bakers did some research and found that ten pounds of sugar cane makes one cup of sugar.



But they still didn't know how many pounds of sugar cane to harvest.

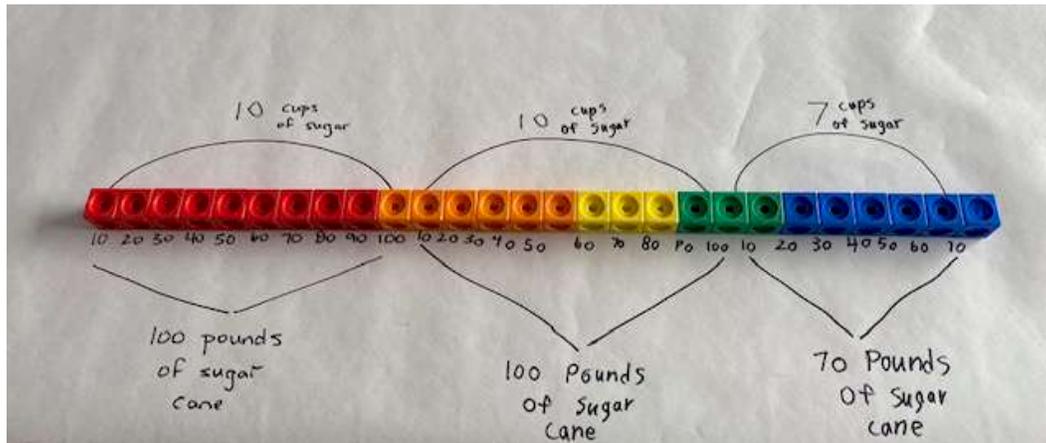
The friends made five recipes each day and they made three batches of each recipe, so they could calculate how much sugar they used every day.

Recipes	Sugar (cups)	Total sugar
Chocolate pavlova cookies	3	$3+3+3=9$
Lamingtons	2	$2+2+2=6$
Brownie bombs	1	$1+1+1=3$
Peach shortcake	1	$1+1+1=3$
Cream cake	2	$2+2+2=6$

Now the kids needed to find out what was  $9+6+3+3+6=?$  They decided to make it easier. They started with  $3+3=6$ . Then  $6+6=12$ . Next  $12+6=18$ . And finally  $18+9=27$ . They needed 27 cups of sugar each day.

Handwritten diagram showing the step-by-step calculation of  $9+6+3+3+6=27$ . The equation is written at the top. Below it, lines connect the numbers to show the sequence:  $3+3=6$ ,  $6+6=12$ ,  $12+6=18$ , and  $18+9=27$ .

The kids needed ten pounds of sugar cane for every cup of sugar so they used snap cubes to count how much they needed.



Each snap cube represents one cup of sugar so we need ten pounds of sugar cane for every cube. We can count by tens to find the total amount of sugar cane required.

To make 27 cups of sugar the bakers needed to harvest 270 pounds of sugar.

They harvested all the sugar cane they needed to make it through that day. Once they had transformed the sugar cane into sugar and made that days batches of baked goods all the customers loved the fresh-tasting sugar. And they were excited about how it hadn't been imported from a different country. All the people in the town came to the bakery, yes!!!!!!!

The End.

## About the Author



My name is Lucy Louise Burrige. I am eight years old and I live in Petty Harbour, Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada. We have very cold winters and in spring we have lots of whales and dolphins and icebergs. I love to dance and spend time with friends and I also love to bake. This story was inspired by me and my friends starting a bakery. I have two younger siblings and I homeschool with my mom.