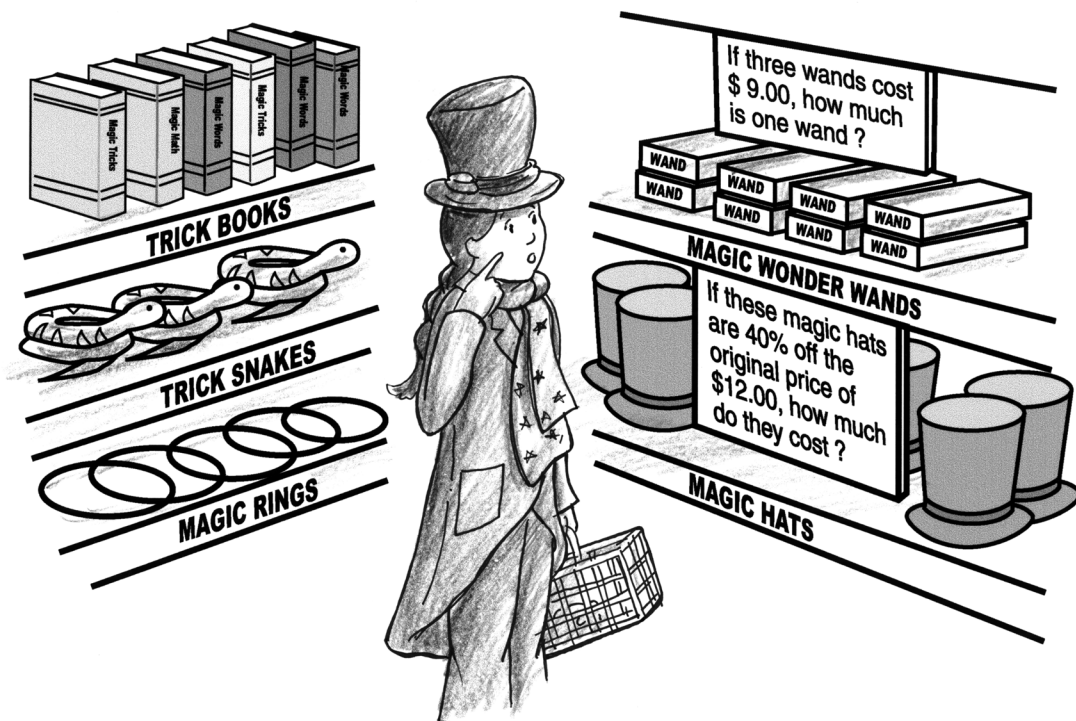


THE MAGIC OF WORD PROBLEMS



When you're not in class, how often do you ask yourself, "What is $821 + 53 + 444$?" or "What is 16×4 ?" or "What is 32 divided by 8?" Probably not very often, unless you're reading your homework out loud. So why study math? Well, although you may not realize it, you answer these kinds of questions in word problems all the time.

For example, your parents are driving you to your favorite amusement park. You sit in the back seat, wondering, *How long until we get there?* If your parents tell you the distance to the park and how fast the car is going, can you figure it out? This is a word problem!

You stop at a restaurant after school. You look at the money in your pocket and wonder, *Do I have enough to get a meal and dessert?* You know the prices from the menu. Can you figure it out? Another word problem!

You get your spelling test back. Your score is 17 out of 21. You ask yourself, *What percentage did I get correct?* You know you'll get a B or better if you got more than 80 percent right. Can you figure it out? Yep, that's a word problem.

You go clothes shopping, and your favorite store has a sale on all jeans—30 percent off. You wonder, *How much will those jeans really cost me?* You know the original price of the jeans. Can you figure out the sale price? Another word problem.

You will be surprised at how many word problems you try to solve every day—problems about time, distance, money, percentages, and measurement, to name a few. In fact, word problems can be about anything, as long as they are written as a story and pose a mathematical problem.

Some students think word problems are difficult, because they pose a problem but don't tell you how to solve it. Word problems don't tell you to add these three numbers or multiply these two numbers. They just ask a question and give you the facts you need to solve it. The trick is to know what to do with those facts. That's what you're about to find out!

In this book you'll practice until you become a word problem master. You'll learn what to do when solving the most common types of word problems. It's not as hard as you think. There are clues to look for, rules to learn, and a few formulas to memorize, but after that, the word problems you encounter every day will seem like a breeze.

Why not get started? A lot of fun activities await you.