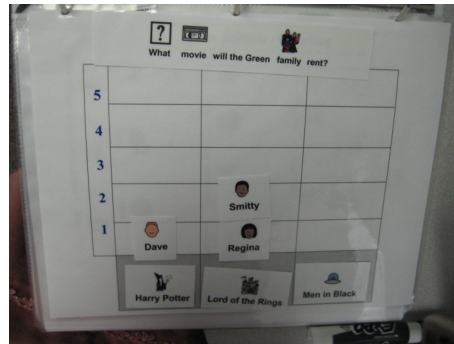


**Reading, Writing, Math, and
Science for Students with
Significant Cognitive
Disabilities**
US Dept of Education, OSEP
Grant # H324M030003

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**UNC CHARLOTTE/ CHARLOTTE-
MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP**

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CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP**

**Writing Story-
Based Problems
in Math**



Quick Guide to Writing Story-Based Problems

Walk Through a Story (1st Story)

- Choose contexts familiar to most students ; provide a "schema" to organize and retrieve facts (Anderson, Spiro, & Anderson, 1978)

- Use "considerate text"

Grade 2-3 Reading comprehension level (*Lexile Framework for Reading*: <http://www.lexile.com>) (Zambo, 2005)

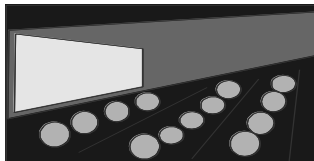
Support key words with picture symbols (*Writing with Symbols, Board-maker*)

For unfamiliar vocabulary, provide definitions in text

-Align sequence of facts in story to placement on graphic organizer (Pugalee, 2004)

-Use names of students/teachers

-End with problem statement



Skill Building (2nd Story)

Same context, same type of problem, different facts:

- Change names of characters in story
- Change facts
- Keep nature of problem similar to first story

Practice (3rd Story)

Same context, different type of problem, different facts:

- Change names of characters in story
- Change facts
- Change nature of problem

Generalization (New set of stories)



EXAMPLE: Algebra

1st Story

Jan and Paul went to see the movie, Transformers

The movie started at 4:00 o'clock.

They watched the whole movie.

The movie ended at 6:00.

How long was the movie?

2nd Story

Tracy and Joey went to see the movie, Hairspray.

The movie started at 2:00 o'clock.

They watched the whole movie.

The movie ended at 5:00.

How long was the movie?

3rd Story

Juanita went to the snack bar at the Regal Cinema.

She bought popcorn for \$6.00.

She bought a large soda.

She paid \$10.00 for the popcorn and soda.

How much did the soda cost?

Generalize to New Set of Stories

Invite friends to house party. 4 from school, some from gym. 6 all together. How many from gym?

Invite friends to house party. 3 from school, some from gym. 7 all together. How many from gym?

Burned CDs of favorite songs for friends coming to party. Found 3 cases. Have 8 CDs all together.

How many cases needed?

