

1106-K5-543

Victoria Kofman* (drkofman@comcast.net), Vika School, 1067 Lake Cook Rd., Wheeling, IL 60090. *Teacher Training: Helping the Students in Solving Word Problems.*

Most of the students come to our learning center unable to solve their required school-level math problems. In 2011, a general method of teaching students how to solve word problems was developed and piloted at Vika School. After several years, it became evident that the method was effective independent of teacher experience or student aptitude.

The method is based on subdividing one-step problems into 4 *logically homogeneous* categories: *part-part total*, *comparison*, *time problems*, and *proportion-type* problems. The students are taught to create pictorial representations, parameters, and equations specific to each category.

Only after students become proficient with representing and solving multistep problems of each type, *logically nonhomogeneous* problems are introduced. As a rule, problems on this level can not be standardized and require lateral thinking. However, students trained with *homogeneous logic* word problems first are able to solve these challenging problems.

Presently, all Vika School teachers learn the method and use it successfully, bringing students to the level of proficiency with word problems. Samples of student work demonstrate that the method works for all teachers who have completed the Vika School training program. (Received September 02, 2014)