It All Adds Up
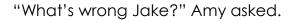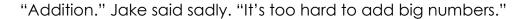**by Nikki Aksamit**

Jake and Amy were in the same first grade class. They had taken a math test that morning, and Jake hadn't done very well. They were walking home from school with Jake's big brother Ben. It was a warm sunny day, but Jake looked glum as he kicked a stone from the sidewalk.

"What's wrong Jake?" Amy asked.

"Math." Jake said. "I can't do it."

"What kind of math?" his brother Ben asked.

"Addition." Jake said sadly. "It's too hard to add big numbers."

"I can help you." Ben said. "Hold up your hands and tell me how many fingers you have."

"That's easy," Jake said, smiling "I have ten fingers."

"Now take away your fingers, but remember you had ten. Try to add nine more." Ben said.

"But I don't know how!" Jake cried out.

"Hold up nine fingers." Ben said. "Now, you already had ten. What number comes after ten?"

"Eleven." said Jake, as Ben touched the first finger of his hand.

"This finger is eleven. What's the next finger?" Bed asked.

"Twelve." Jake said. Ben touched each of the fingers Jake was holding up. "Thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, NINETEEN! Ten plus nine is nineteen!" Ben said with a big smile.

"I get it!" said Amy. "I'm going to use that trick too!"

"But what happens when we have to add even bigger numbers?" Jake asked Ben. "I only have ten fingers!"

"I know!" Amy said sitting down and taking off her shoes. "We can use our toes!"

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1. Where does this story take place?

   a. in the afternoon   **b.** in the morning

   c. outside on the sidewalk   **d.** at school

2. Which character is the oldest?   _____

3. About how old do you think Amy is? Tell how you figured out your answer.

   _____

   _____

4. What kind of Math does Jake have trouble with?

   a. adding numbers with sums less than 10

   b. adding numbers with sums greater than 10

   c. subtracting big numbers

   d. counting numbers on his fingers

5. How are Ben and Jake related?

   a. Ben is Jake's little brother.

   b. Jake is Ben's big brother.

   c. Ben is Jake's big brother.

   d. Amy is Ben and Jake's sister.

Name: _____

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Draw lined to match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

1. fingers

a. two more than sixteen

2. bigger

b. one less than twenty

3. glum

c. path next to a street

4. nineteen

d. body parts on your hand

5. eighteen

e. sad

6. sidewalk

f. larger or greater

Name: _____

It All Adds Up

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In the story, "It Adds Up," Ben helps Jake learn to add big numbers on his fingers.

Write a paragraph in which you explain how to subtract using your fingers.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

It All Adds Up
by Nikki Aksamit

1. Where does this story take place? **c**

   a. in the afternoon   **b.** in the morning
   c. **outside on the sidewalk**   **d.** at school

2. Which character is the oldest?   **Ben**

3. About how old do you think Amy is? Tell how you figured out your answer.

   Amy is probably 6 or 7 because she is in first grade.

4. What kind of Math does Jake have trouble with? **b**

   a. adding numbers with sums less than 10
   b. **adding numbers with sums greater than 10**
   c. subtracting big numbers
   d. counting numbers on his fingers

5. How are Ben and Jake related? **c**

   a. Ben is Jake's little brother.
   b. Jake is Ben's big brother.
   c. **Ben is Jake's big brother.**
   d. Amy is Ben and Jake's sister.

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