Unpacking Mathematical Practice Standard \#2

## Reason Abstractly and Quantitatively

Mathematically proficient students make sense of the quantities and their relationships in problem situations.

| Key Idea | Description | Learn to ask yourself questions like... | Notes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Attend to quantities and relationships $3 A+2 B=20$ | Using a variety of concrete and visual representations to highlight quantities, relationships between quantities, and the underlying mathematical structure of a problem situation | What can I count or measure in this problem situation? i.e. what are the quantities? <br> How do the quantities relate to each other? <br> What's an effective way to represent the important information (i.e. quantities and relationships)? <br> What "hidden" quantities and relationships are there? | This math practice shifts our attention away from picking numbers out of a problem statement and focusing on the quantities to which those numbers refer |
| Decontextualize <br> Contextualize | Decontextualize <br> Abstracting a problem situation and manipulating that abstract representation without attending to referents <br> Contextualize <br> Recalling and considering the referents for the abstraction you are manipulating | $\square$ How can I represent this problem (e.g. using symbols, diagrams, numbers, manipulatives, etc.)? <br> How will manipulating this, without worrying about what it represents help right now? <br> What does this (symbol/ diagram/ number/ variable) stand for? <br> What does this number represent in the problem context? And, does that number make sense given the problem context? | "Abstracting" does not just mean using variables. Diagrams, numbers, manipulatives, invented symbols, etc. can all be used to decontextualize a problem situation. |

## PENNY'S MARBLES SAMPLE DIAGRAMS

## Penny's Marbles Task

Penny had a bag of marbles. She gave one-third of them to Rebecca, and then one-fourth of the remaining marbles to John. Penny then had 24 marbles left in the bag. How many marbles were in the bag to start with?

## DIAGRAM A



## DIAGRAM B



DIAGRAM C


DIAGRAM D



DIAGRAM F


