THINKING THROUGH a MATH PROBLEM

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UNDERSTAND the PROBLEM

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM ABOUT? Can I visualize it (picture it in my mind)?

WHAT'S the problem asking me to find out?

What information is necessary? unnecessary?

MAKE A PLAN

WHAT DO I KNOW that can help me solve this problem?

What other problems or math ideas does this remind me of?

What tools and strategies can I use to solve this problem?

Which strategy is the most EFFICIENT?

What answer MAKES SENSE? (Estimate!)

SOLVE the PROBLEM

DO I SHOW ALL MY WORK AND THINKING?

Does my math make sense?

Do I have an answer statement?

Is my work clear and organized so I can check it and others can understand how I solved it?

CHECK and REFLECT

Does my answer MAKE SENSE?

Is my work accurate?

Do I prove my answer is correct by solving the problem a different way?

What observations, connections, or rules can I make?