## Unlocking Word Problems: It's More Than Key Words

Kathy Eichhorst and Melinda Radon Tucson Unified School District #1 NCTM 2013 Annual Meeting & Exposition April 17-20

## Problem given to children:

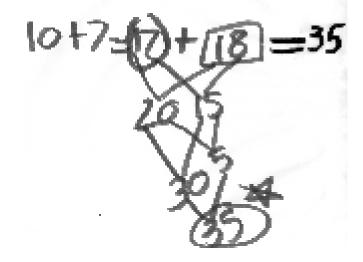
Mrs. Radon had 17 books she no longer could use. She gave them away to a friend.

Mrs. Radon now has 35 books left. How many did she have before she gave any away?

What does the student understand?

Student 1

What misunderstandings does the student have?

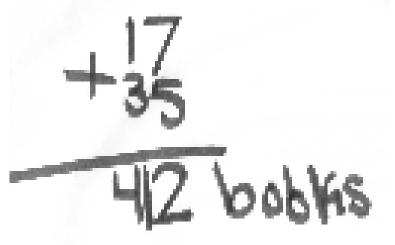


Student 2

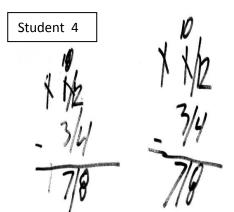
What does the student understand?

35-10=25 25-7=18

What misunderstandings does the student have?



■ What misunderstandings does the student have?



I am making cookies and I need 1½ cups of flour. I only have ¾ of a cup. How much more flour do I need so that I will have 1½ cups of flour altogether?

## Student 5

