

Description: Division of Fractions: Meredith Writes a Number Sentence Parent Tape: Introducing Division of Fractions (side and presentation view) Date: 1993-12-02 Location: Colts Neck Elementary School Researcher: Professor Carolyn Maher	Transcriber(s): Yankelewitz, Dina Verifier(s): Lew, Kristen Date Transcribed: Spring 2009 Page: 1 of 4
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Line	Time	Speaker	Transcript	Code
1	00:00	T/R 2	Ok so there's 6 of these, 6 $1/6$'s are in 1. Ok. Can we write this now as a number sentence including these numbers? Going back to that division we were working with last week, does anybody think they could write this situation here, the question I'm asking here in a number sentence that would work? A couple people think they might be able to.	
2		CT	They should talk among themselves about it.	
3		T/R 2	Yeah. Yeah. I see two people with their hands up but I'd like everybody to think about that maybe a little bit. Maybe write it in words here. How could we rewrite this as a math sentence, as a number sentence?	
4			[Students discuss their answers with their partners. They are given approximately 6 minutes.]	
5		Brian	[to Danielle] One divided by one sixth equals six [Danielle nods, Brian raises hand]	
6		Meredith	One whole minus, oh, I have an idea. One whole minus six sixths is zero. One whole	
7		Student	One whole minus-	
8		Michael	five sixths equals one sixth.	
9	01:11	Meredith	No, no no no no. I have an idea. No. No, give me a pencil. Look, this is one. One is equal to six sixths. Does it have to be division? Does it have to be a division problem?	
10		Michael	One divided by six is not six sixths	
11		Meredith	I didn't say it was.	
12		Brian	[T/R 2 speaks to Brian] One divided by, I think if you're doing a division problem, you could do one divided by one sixth equal six, because it was like what we did when our parents were here, we did one divided by	

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			one eighth equals eight, so it was like well, what, how many eighths are in one?	
13	02:19	T/R 2	Ok, so that's like the question we were asking here. Do you agree with that, Danielle?	
14		Danielle	Uh, yeah but I, so it's like every number, it's that, it's one divided by the fraction and then just the plain number?	
15		T/R 2	What do you think?	
16		Brian	Well, uh,	
17		T/R 2	It's a good question, isn't it? She's thinking in general terms does that always work? I think that's something we need to do some more exploring with to see if that works, so we'll do some more problems to see if that's the case.	
18		Brian	It's just like saying six divided by uh, it would be like the same thing, kind of. Six divided by one sixth equals what? And then you check it.	
19		T/R 2	Ok, that's a very good question, though, Danielle. I think, I think maybe it will become more evident as we do more problems. I don't want to just give you the answer on that, I want you to think about it some more.	
20		Meredith	... One whole	
21		T/R 2	Alright, ok, so that would work. So these are your sixths.	
22		Meredith	Yeah, mm hmm [gestures to show that there is an equal sign between the two models]	
23		T/R 2	And that's one, ok. And how many, ok, so there's six of them. Ok, yeah, ok. Can you write a sentence now using, um, division, that would also describe the situation? Think about that. [walks away]	

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24		Michael	One...	
25		Meredith	Oh, yeah! Wait, of course I can.	
26		Michael	One whole... nah, six sixths divided by	
27		Meredith	One divided by one sixth equals [laughs]. I know. One divided by one sixth equals six sixths.	
28		Michael	What? That doesn't make sense!	
29		Danielle	How do you spell division? D-I-V-I-S-I-O-N, something like that.	
30	04:11	Meredith	No, you're not taking away when you divide	
31		T/R 2	Are we taking away when you divide? That's a good question.	
32		Michael	No, you're doing subtraction.	
33		Meredith	No, see. Do we have a pen? Do you have a pen in that desk?	
34		T/R 2	How is it related to subtraction, Michael?	
35		Meredith	See, look	
36		Michael	It would be, I would, it would be	
37		T/R 2	I would agree with you that it is related	
38		Michael	I would agree with it that it would be one divided by one sixth equals six but not six sixths.	
39		Meredith	And one divided by one sixth equals six because there's six, one sixths in one.	
40		Michael	Yeah, that's what I mean	
41		Meredith	So six divided by one, if you do six times one	
42		Michael	But she said six sixths, I would agree with six, but not six sixths.	
43		Meredith	equals six, minus equals zero. It's uh, one divided by one sixth.	
44		T/R 2	That would work, then, you're saying. Ok. Alright	
45		Michael	But not six sixths.	
46		T/R 2	Let's see what other people think. Let's put this on the table, I think.	

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