Finding a Second Secret

Parent Tape: Early Algebra Ideas

**Involving One Variable** 

Date: 1993-09-30

**Location: Harding Elementary School** 

Researcher: Robert B. Davis

Transcriber(s): Spang, Kathleen Verifier(s): Yedman, Madeline Date Transcribed: Fall 2010

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Davis Okay, let me think of some numbers here. Umm

Student Give us real hard ones.

Student Yeah, give us real hard ones.

Davis Yeah, I'll try, I'll try that.

Student Yeah, give me a real hard one! Give me a real hard one.

Davis Okay good. (Inaudible). Can anybody tell me right away?

Stephanie I don't have a secret-nobody will tell me-

Milin It's number nine, it's number nine Student fifteen and two. Fifteen and two

Davis Is that the same?

Milin Yeah. Its number nine

Jeff It's fifteen and two. It's fifteen and two

Davis Is that-Jeff -its

Milin None of them work. Fifteen and two do not work

Jeff Milin just be quiet.

Michael I know he took that number right out of his hand and how

how do we even know that it works

Bobby Five and six. Student Yup. Yup

Davis Five and six. Bobby says five and six. Will people try

them?

Student I could see. I got it I got it Student No, five and six work

Davis Do they work?
Student I got it. I got it.
Student What's the secret?
Stephanie Two does not work
Student I got it. I got it.

Student Can you tell me the secret?

Brian Oh! I was right

Student 1, 2, 10. Student 10, 9, 8

Student One. Two (Brian approaches Ankur and Ankur whispers in

His ear.)

Milin You should know the number.

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Davis Okay. Brian Ohhh

Davis Has anyone checked for five and six. Are they right or not

right?

Stephanie Oh sure you tell Brian?

Ankur No, he told me his and I told him mine.

Stephanie Uh huh.

Davis Has anybody checked five for this problem does it work?

Michelle No

Davis Michelle says no it does not work.

Michelle Not from how I did it.

Student It should work
Student Its 25 minus 55

Davis Let's all check it together (inaudible chatter)

Milin It works. It works

Davis It works. Okay let's check it.

Milin 25 minus 55

Davis It says 25 right minus 55. How much is that?

Milin That's 30.
Davis How muchMilin That's um
Milin negative 30
Stephanie negative 30

Milin Plus 30 would be zero

Davis I'm with Stephanie. Negative 30 and plus 30 would be

Zero. So it works okay

Student Any numbers I'll get it. Any numbers I'll get it. (Inaudible

chatter)

Stephanie Can you not fling your pencil. You're putting it in my face.

Milin Its not a pencil Stephanie Pen. Whatever it is

Davis Okay. Lets see what I can do this time. Uh (begins to write

on board)

Jeff Make it one so one times one-

MIlin Be quiet

Davis Box times box minus fourteen times box plus thirteen

equals zero.

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Student You can't do that.
Student Can't do that

Davis Can't do that Can't do it.

Milin It's impossible

Davis It's impossible. No number works.

Students No number works

Jeff I don't understand this; this makes no sense.

Davis Everybody agree with that

Brian I think, I think the number you have to plus has to be more

than the number (inaudible)

Student I know the first number has to be smaller the second

Number has to be higher

Davis Okay um. Okay, could we get it quiet for a second I want to

make sure. Now could we get it quiet I want to make sure

everybody could hear. Matt what are you about to say

Matt number-Well

Davis Don't tell the secret right.

Matt One works

Davis Matt says one works. Now some people are telling me-

Ankur says no numbers work and Matt says one works

Jeff One works. (Inaudible)
Bobby I know its one and thirteen.

Davis Bobby says one works and thirteen works.

Matt Yup yup

Jeff I'ma let you in on a secret. I don't even understand this

(inaudible chatter)

Students It works, it works, it works.

Michael Only one and thirteen goes. Only one times thirteen goes

into-

Jeff I'll give you the secret. I want everyone in on the secret

right here

Ankur Can I tell you the secret

Davis Come whisper it into the microphone. (Ankur approaches

Davis and whispers answer into ear)

Davis Yeah, that's good.

Ankur Brian, Brian. That's your secret

Davis Okay, now-

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Michelle I You practically are figuring out the answers for them.

Jeff And you just give them the answers and then nobody else

knows.

Michelle I Then it's not a secret if you give them the answers.

Michael Why don't you give us the answers? You always give them the answers. Michael Why don't you give us the answers?

Jeff You always give them the answer. Yes, yes, yes you did.

Don't lie to me.

Michael Why don't you give us the answers?

Milin [Talking to Stephanie] I got a hint for you. Look at the

first page. See that's how I figured out the thing. Just look

at the first page.

Ankur Look at any problem.

Stephanie No but what am I suppose to look at in general? Like, the

first page what? What am I suppose to be looking for?

Milin You are suppose to, look at, try looking at these

numbers and try looking at the answers. Then tell me like

what's the other number was this. It's two right?

Three and two, right?

Romina I thought that was eleven for a minute there.

Stephanie Okay. Does it have something to do with [inaudible].

Student What did you get for number five?

Jeff How come one never works except for the time we all think

of one?

Davis Okay, is there anybody who thinks they don't know any

secrets about this?

Michael I am trying to figure it out. I do not know one secret.

Thank You.

Jeff My secret was that I have no secrets and I don't know what

we're doing.

Milin [Inaudible].
Stephanie It does.
Davis Okay.

Michael We have to figure something out.

Stephanie Oh, okay. How do you get this there? I mean you guys are

just getting it like that.

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Student Then it's not a secret.

Michael Hey, everybody on this side is saying their secret and their

saying it to this side.

Jeff Now whistle.

Milin What is the highest number that is multiplied with this? Davis Okay. Okay, we need to have another discussion. Okay.

Okay. Can I get everybody's attention for a second?

Ankur We'll sell it to you.

Davis Okay, we need another discussion on ethics again. What

are we going to do? Some people say they don't know any

secrets.

Jeff Did we ever discuss ethics? When did we discuss

ethics?

Student Jeff, I'll give you one hint.

Milin And if it's seventeen [Milin is talking to Stephanie but it is

inaudible]

Davis How many people think they know one secret but not any

more than one?

Stephanie Oh, okay. I know it. I know it. I know it.

Michelle I Well, how many people think they don't know any?

Jeff How many people are lost in space and are revolving

around the moon?

Davis One but not any others? Brian One but not any others.

Davis Who thinks they know more than one?

Stephanie I just know one.

Davis How many do you know? How many secrets do you

know?

Student Two.

Davis How many do you know?

Student Two.

Davis Two. Two. Michael I know a secret.

Brian Two.
Davis Two.
Student Zero.
Davis Zero.

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Michelle I I don't think it's a secret because everybody is telling

everybody.

Jeff I know cause I think whenever Brian thinks he tells two

people and they tell everyone on that side, people and Milin tells no one and Ankur and Ankur thinks he is cute

over there and you just [inaudible].

Brian When I made up my first secret, I didn't tell anyone.

Michael Brian tells Romina, Amy Lynn and Bobby.

Brian Are you just mad because you don't know any secrets?

Jeff I don't know any secrets Brian. That's no secret.