Owning the Secrets

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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Stephanie Brian is like [inaudible]

Davis I want to talk to the people, I want everyone to be

quiet for a second and I want to talk just to the people who

are sure, absolutely sure they don't know any secrets.

Students [Laughter.]

Davis So the only people who can talk are hum, Mike and

Michelle and Jeff.

Jeff Yeah, are, are group, that's why because we don't share it

with anyone else and no one shares it because we are not in

their group so we don't know anything.

Michael We have nothing to share about.

Michelle I Everybody but us.

Davis There might be another way.

Ankur Okay, Jeff just look at the numbers carefully.

Michael Nobody likes me anymore.

Ankur Look at the set up.

Jeff I'll look at the numbers but right now the numbers make

absolutely no sense. Look Brian already knows. It doesn't

matter. He already knows.

Davis Okay, now you can't talk. You guys know. Only,

only Michael and Michelle and Jeff can talk.

Jeff To make us feel good and everyone knows but you so do

the problem by yourself.

Michael And you get it wrong and everyone laughs at you.

Davis Okay. No talking. Student Sh! Sh! Sh! Sh!

Davis Hum, Michael, Michelle and Jeff, you can guess?

Student Which one?

Michelle I I'll just guess anything, five I guess.

Michael One through infinity.

Jeff Three.

Michael I got that one right. Jeff No wait. No.

Davis The people who know. Is three going to work or

not?

Students No.

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Jeff No two. Does two work? Does two work? Michael Which problems are we doing? Which one?

Jeff Does two work?

Michael Which one are we doing?

Jeff Does two work? Oh my God! Do I have a secret? Not

anymore, I just.

Michael Which one are we doing?

Brian People who have the secrets be quiet.

Michael One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, one of those.

Davis [Laughs]

Jeff No I have a secret now. I have a secret.

Brian What is the second one? What is the second one?

Jeff I don't care what the second one is.

Michael Four.

Jeff As long as I got one secret I'm happy.

Michael Four, twelve.

Michelle I I got a secret. I know one of the numbers.

Michael Sixty-two, one, one, one. Davis What's the other number?

Romina Well, you have to know both of the numbers.

Michelle I Well, I know one Jeff How is eight?

Michelle I And that's good enough for me.

Michael Who needs another number?

Jeff Four. Does four work?

Romina No.

Ankur There are two numbers to every single problem like this at

least.

Jeff Six. Romina No.

Michelle I Does number two work?

Jeff Does any odd numbers work?

Romina Can't tell you.

Michael Tell me, one through what?

Romina Can't tell you.

Brian One through five million six hundred seventy-eight

thousand two.

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Jeff Okay, one. One doesn't work.

Romina No.

Jeff Two works. Romina No, yeah.

Jeff Three doesn't work?

Romina No.

Jeff Four doesn't work.

Romina [Shakes her head from left to right.]

Davis Three people can talk right? Michael, Michelle and Jeff.

Jeff Five doesn't work.

Romina [Shakes her head from left to right.]

Jeff Six works.

Romina [Shakes her head from left to right. While Jeff and

Romina are talking, Davis is heard in the background saying: Three people can talk right? Michael and Michelle

and Jeff can talk okay?]

Jeff Seven doesn't.
Romina [Inaudible.]
Jeff Eight works.

Romina [Romina Laughs. Davis is heard in the background saying:

Okay. You want me to try another problem. Let me try another problem. Well, okay but just as, let's see, Jeff said two works. Off camera: Davis wrote 2 in the brackets $\{2, _\}$ under $(X) \square (102 \times) + 200 = 0$] and the people

and everybody agreed with that, two works.]

Brian I know the answer.

Jeff Nine doesn't work? You're not going to tell me even if I

get it. Are you?

Michael Give us another problem so we can get all messed up.

Davis Two works.
Brian Two does work.
Student I said two too.

Milin Bobby already yelled out the answer so it doesn't really

matter.

Davis Yeah, Michelle what do you think would be another

number that might work for that one?

Michelle I [Inaudible.]

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Jeff It's gonna be six. I think it's six. Davis How about six? Does six work?

Romina No. It's not six.

Student No.

Jeff How about four?

Davis Four.
Romina No.
Davis No.

Jeff Odds don't work, right?

Davis Michael, what number do you think might work?

Ankur Maybe, maybe not.

Stephanie Maybe it depends on the problem.

Michael One through infinity.

Jeff What do you people have to do this to me for?

Ankur Because we want to torture you.
Stephanie Because we are your friends.
Milin Let's torture him until he gets it.
Stephanie No because we are your friends.

Michael Don't hate me for this.

Jeff I've got one secret and one secret is enough for me.

Ankur Okay, what is your secret?

Brian That's not a secret that's just part of the answer

Jeff That two works.
Michael I have one secret.

Milin No.

Davis Say the one secret, yeah Jeff, say the one secret that you

know.

Jeff Two works.

Davis I don't know that, that counts as a secret.

Jeff It worked as a secret until you put it up on the board.

Student [Laughs.]

Jeff It was good enough for me but now I have no secrets.

Davis Hum, I want to take a vote again. How many people think

they know two secrets?

Jeff You are just trying to deteriorate me until there is nothing

left. I got one.

Students [Are laughing]

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Ankur Jeff, you don't have one. Matt You don't have one Jeff.

Jeff It was a secret until you put it on the board.

Davis Okay, new problem. What is the other number that works

up here incidentally?

Bobby A hundred. [Off camera: Davis writes

 $\{2,100\}$ under $(x) \square (102 x) + 200 = 0$

Jeff Oh my God! You guys are just doing this to.

Michael Tell us the secret now.

Jeff Eight thousand one hundred fourteen.

Michael Tell me the secret now.

Jeff We are getting closer.

Student There is only one secret.

Brian The first secret we had works with the second one.

Michael Is it that the two answers [Inaudible.]

Jeff These people are allowed to Student Can I please go to the bathroom?

Brian The first secret works with the second secret.

Michael I don't care. I don't care. I was thinking.

Michelle I Mike, if you get something you have to tell us.

Jeff Forty-eight, forty-eight. Is forty-eight a secret?

Student Mike tell us the secret please.

Jeff Is forty-eight a secret?

Michael Wait. Hold on.

Jeff Let's look at Romina's scrap paper and see if we can detect

something.

Michael The two numbers the answer.

Milin He doesn't know any. He doesn't know any.

Brian There is only one secret.

Michael Two times one hundred is two hundred and over there two

times sixteen is twenty-six.

Milin There is one huge secret. The second secret works

together.

Davis I'm with Michael.

Student She knows it's complicated.

Davis But I don't think its right to say that he doesn't know any

secrets.

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Jeff Is forty-eight?

Ankur You'll be so surprised when we tell you the secret.

Stephanie I know.

Jeff Stop tormenting me. Stop doing this.

Michael I'm figuring it out.

Student Can Brian tell me the secret?

Davis Can I get it quiet for a second? Okay. I really would like

Mike to say the secret. He has been very patient. You

were about to say one of the secrets.

Michael I don't have a secret.

Davis Alright.

Jeff We just saw something and picked up on something. It's

sort of weird though.

Michelle I I am still not sure if it's it though like there is one hundred

and two and then there is two and then there is one

hundred

Jeff Because like on one hundred there is one hundred and two

and there is one hundred and two [102]

Brian Oh my God!

Michael Two times one hundred is two-hundred [inaudible].

Michelle I See I knew the secret. Thank you.

Brian Oh my God!

Jeff See there is one hundred and two and one hundred plus

two. That can't be. I don't want no stupid.

Michelle I That is like one of those corny things you know.

Michael I didn't hear him.

Brian Jeff, Jeff, say two plus three is five and two times three is

six.

Jeff We are straining our brain for a stupid little dingy thing. I

wonder why?

Michael What is the secret?

Jeff We are looking at it for a minute and a half.

Michael What's the secret? What's the secret? Michelle I See look one hundred and [inaudible].

Jeff No, no, no, no. [Jeff laughs. Michelle leans toward Mike

and Jeff grabs her hand.]

Michelle I Two and one hundred. [Off camera: Davis writes

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 $(\square \times \square) \square (8 \times \square) + 15 = 0$ and sits down.

Davis Can I get it quiet? I think maybe Ankur and Bobby were

among the first to get the secret.

Michael Wait. Two plus.
Ankur I only know one.
Student We got it together.

Davis Who is about to say the secret?

Ankur I will.
Student Me.
Brian Me.
Student Me.

Jeff No, let me say it because I came up with it last.

Brian Let Ankur, Ankur is the main man. But I'm the one

who told him that there is only one secret.

Romina No and I'm the one that told you there was only one secret.

Ankur The two answers that there are if you add together they

equal the first number on the left and if you multiply them,

they equal the number on the right.

Jeff Is that why we were doing in the beginning with the illegal

and legal moves?

Davis That's why this is an interesting discovery. It's not what we were-Brian No, see, see. On the first one there is two and three and if

you add them together it's five and if you multiply them

it's six.

Jeff Where is your pencil man?

Michael How are we suppose to know that? Ankur It's the simplest secret in the world

Stephanie No, no its one of the those secrets where you don't look at

it until the very-its like the last thing you think of. Its like one of those and then when you finally find it you feel like

a dork because you never thought of it